



The University of Winnipeg Students' Association
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UWSA Introduces Living Wage Policy

Winnipeg, Manitoba – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The UWSA is proud to announce the adoption of a living wage policy. This fiscal year, all staff shall be compensated at a rate of at least \$14.10 per hour, and new contracts signed will reflect this rate. Wages will be adjusted for inflation on an annual basis. For employees at the UWSA Daycare, wage increases will be phased in over the next several years.

The living wage reflects the true cost of living in our community, and is intended to provide workers with the income security they need to meet their immediate needs and save for the future. As an organization that employs many students on a part time basis, we recognize that it now takes a student working a minimum wage job twice as long to pay for their education as it did in the 1970s. Providing fair employment opportunities for our members is one way we can remove barriers to education.

“Employers across North American and Europe now realize the many benefits of paying a living wage, benefits that extend to employers as well as their employees and society at large,” said Lynne Fernandez, Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues, CCPA. “The UWSA is setting an excellent example by adopting a living wage policy and I hope other employers will be inspired by their leadership to do the same.”

“Precarious labour and wages that fail to lift folks out of poverty do not have to be the norm,” said Peyton Veitch, UWSA President. “As we celebrate International Workers’ Day, we affirm our role in helping build a fair labour market for today’s squeezed generation of youth and students.”

With our coalition partners, including labour and community organizations, the UWSA will continue to advocate for policies that promote the creation of good jobs and just employment practices.

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