



For immediate release

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

## Canada needs a \$10/hour minimum wage

### The Canadian Labour Congress supports the call to restore the federal minimum wage at a rate of \$10 per hour.

OTTAWA – “Canadians expect that everyone who works should be paid fairly,” says Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress. “Too many Canadians are working in full-time jobs, yet they still have to choose between paying the rent and feeding their families. It’s time to bring back the federal minimum wage to help the growing number of working families earning poverty wages.”

A worker today needs to earn \$10.09 per hour for 2,000 hours to reach the poverty line. – Disturbingly, the proportion of adult workers (age 25 plus) who are working for less than these wages has increased in 2006. They are workers who, working full-time hours for the whole year, still would not reach the Statistics Canada low-income line.

“The federal government recently commissioned and paid for its own review of Canada’s labour standards. The report came in last October and it calls for the restoration of a federal minimum wage that would be set at the poverty line as a way to address the growth of precarious, low-wage jobs across the country,” explains Georgetti. (That report is available at [www.flis-ntf.gc.ca/en/fin-rpt.asp](http://www.flis-ntf.gc.ca/en/fin-rpt.asp)).

In December, the Canadian Labour Congress’ Report Card 2006 Is Your Work Working for You?, which compares job and income statistics for the first half of each year since 2001, noted a disturbing growth in the number of Canadians unable to earn enough to meet their basic needs in the first part of 2006 despite strong job creation numbers over the same period.

“Getting a job is supposed to mean getting ahead. It’s supposed to be a family’s ticket out of poverty. A country so prosperous and rich in opportunity should be able to do better for working citizens,” concludes Georgetti.

The Canadian Labour Congress’ Report Card 2006 Is Your Work Working for You?, is available at [www.working4you.ca](http://www.working4you.ca).

The Canadian Labour Congress, the national voice of the labour movement, represents 3.2 million Canadian workers. The CLC brings together Canada's national and international unions along with the provincial and territorial federations of labour and 135 district labour councils. Web site:

[www.canadianlabour.ca](http://www.canadianlabour.ca)

Contacts: Jean Wolff, 613-526-7431 and 613-878-6040  
Jeff Atkinson, 613-526-7425 and 613-863-1413