



The Community Social Planning Society
of Cranbrook and Area
c/o 930 Baker Street
Cranbrook, BC, V1C 1A5
cranbrookspc@gmail.com
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reduction strategy for British Columbia. We congratulate the government for beginning this necessary work, because it costs much more to manage people in poverty than it will to actually lower the poverty rate.

Raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour is a perfect strategy to support poverty reduction planning for British Columbia and bring a human rights perspective to this food bank. It is unacceptable that citizens in Cranbrook who hold down steady jobs and

Just last week there were 3 important reports released that demonstrate unequivocally the poverty problems we are facing not just in British Columbia but around the country. We had the BC Child Poverty Report Card, the National Housing Strategy, and Tackling Poverty Together (from the federal government). The evidence is more than clear. The time to act is now.

We realize that sometimes there is a fear about the impact of increasing the minimum wage on small businesses. To this point we want to bring your attention to the fact that higher wages improve productivity and decrease absenteeism, and in fact many small businesses already pay better. We understand that most minimum wage workers work for large corporations with 100 or more employees; these businesses could afford an increased minimum wage of \$15 per hour. To be absolutely honest, we find it offensive that any business would be allowed to operate on the backs of poor people.

The Cranbrook Social Planning Society supports the recommendations put forward by the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition. We want the Government of British Columbia to increase the minimum wage incrementally, and reach \$15 an hour by January 2019. We