

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM43.26	ACTION			Ward:All
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### **Affirming Support for a Minimum Wage in Toronto - by Councillor Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Maria Augimeri**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### **Recommendations**

Councillor Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Maria Augimeri, recommends that:

1. City Council affirm its support for the Minimum Wage increase to \$15 an hour starting January 1, 2019 and encourage the Ontario Government to not rescind the law increasing the minimum wage.

### **Summary**

Last year the Ontario Government passed a bill raising the minimum wage to \$14 an hour for January 1, 2018 and \$15 an hour for January 1, 2019. This increase was supported by many groups across Toronto, from faith groups, labour organizations, student groups and many other stakeholders.

A living wage is something the people in Toronto need to prevent us from having a large number of residents be working poor. Many people who work full time still struggle to pay for housing, food and other essentials.

Women, newcomers and racialized communities are over-represented among minimum wage earners. Raising the minimum wage will help close the income gap for workers facing barriers and income inequalities.

In 2016, nearly 30 percent of Ontario workers earned less than \$15 an hour and nearly half of them worked for large companies with over 500 employees. A higher minimum wage will help the economy as it will put more money into the hands of those who are going to spend in local small businesses that they may not have been able to afford before. Raising the minimum wage will also decrease the amount of employee turnover in businesses by providing a reasonable standard of living.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM43.26