

## ***Raising the Minimum Wage in Newfoundland & Labrador***

NL Women's Wages 2003

27.1% earned less than \$8 an hour

37.6% earned less than \$10 an hour

30% of single parent families earned \$8 an hour or less

37.4% of single parent families \$10 an hour or less

Women make up two-thirds of minimum wage earners and the majority of low-wage workers. The minimum wage in our province is currently \$7.00 per hour. In real dollars, this is less today than it was 30 years ago. The link between the minimum wage and women's poverty is clear.

Simply put, we need to make work pay.

That's the slogan of the Make Work Pay Coalition. Thanks to their strong lobby effort, the provincial government has scheduled two raises in the coming months. The rate will increase to \$7.50 on October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and \$8.00 on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

The Make Work Pay Coalition includes the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, unions, student groups, women's organizations, faith-based organizations, anti-poverty groups and community activists. Visit their website for more startling statistics and important information: [www.makeworkpay.ca](http://www.makeworkpay.ca)

The Coalition is continuing to lobby for a \$10 minimum wage, indexed to the cost of living each year. The provincial government has committed to further consultations this fall.

The Advisory Council is active in this lobby and included a call for a \$10 minimum wage in our 2007 Pre-Budget Consultation Brief found on our [Resources](#) page.

We are united in our efforts to increase the minimum wage to a **Living Wage**.