

\$6

What You Should Know About the Training Wage

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- According to the legislation an employee who has any paid work prior to Nov. 15 2001 should not be paid the training wage.
- It is up to the employee to prove they have worked before November 15th 2001 or have worked 500 hours since then. Proof of previous employment can be any of the following: record of employment, pay stubs, and written confirmation from a previous employer.
- If an employer does not accept an employee's information and it is later determined that they have reasonably proved they had paid employment, the employer could be required to make up the difference in wages.
- All paid employment, whether in BC, other parts of Canada, or the world, counts towards the 500 hours of paid work experience.
- The first job/entry level wage applies only to workers paid by the hour or on commission.
- Only work for which earnings have been declared count towards the required 500 hours of paid experience so casual work does not count.
- There is nothing in the Employment Standards Act that prevents employees from being laid off once they work 500 hours at their job.

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What is the Anti-Poverty Committee?

The Anti-Poverty Committee is an organization of poor and working people who fight for poor people, their rights, and an end to poverty by any means necessary. The poor face constant attacks under the capitalist system, and these attacks have only intensified under the BC Liberal government.

The BC Liberal's brutal policies - the cuts to welfare, the \$6 training wage, the privatization of public services, the cuts to social programs, the restriction of democratic and human rights - all are designed to transfer wealth from poor and working people to the rich and powerful.

The Anti-Poverty Committee is committed to fighting these brutal policies through direct action, mass mobilization, and direct action casework. The APC oppose racism, sexism, homophobia and all other forms of oppression. We are an independent organization that is open to anyone who agrees with our basis of unity. We are committed to working in solidarity with the struggles of other progressive movements - locally, nationally, and internationally - to end poverty and injustice.

Anti-Poverty Committee

(604) 682-2726

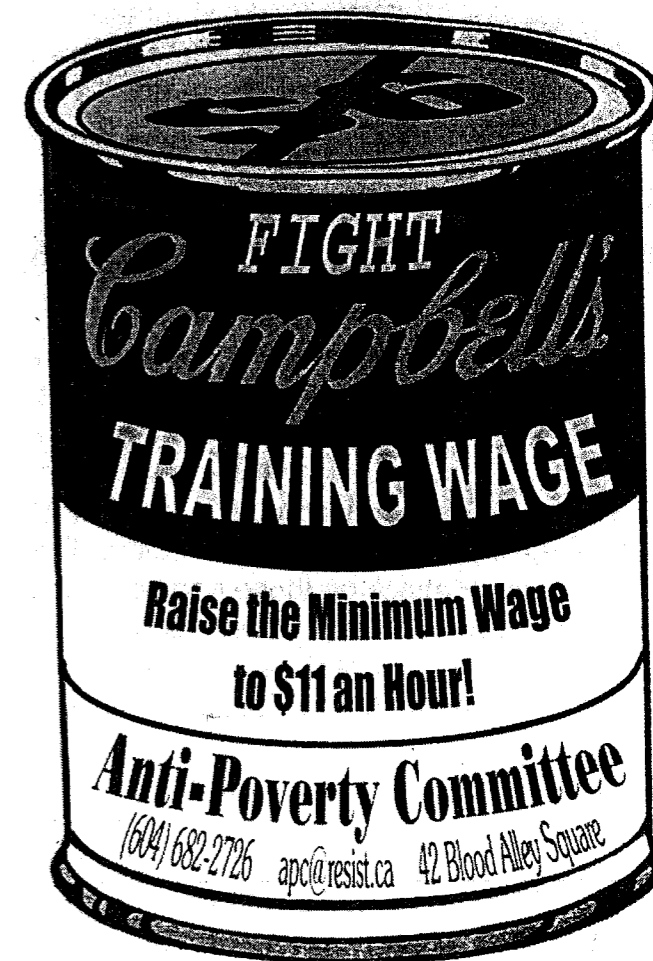
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42 Blood Alley Square

Are you being paid \$6 an hour?

Do you know someone who is?

Do you know a business that is taking advantage of the training wage?



Call the Anti-Poverty Committee!

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Helping unemployment?

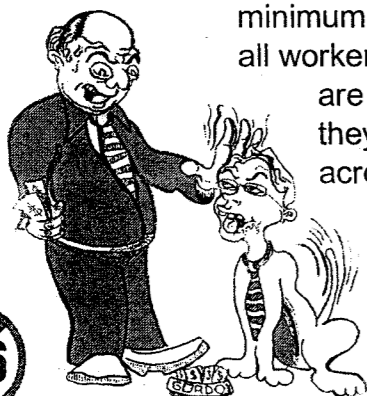
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The government claims that the training wage is a solution to youth unemployment and that lower wages will provide employers with an incentive to hire youth. This is an outright lie. Lower minimum wages do not increase employment and a rise in minimum wage does not negatively affect the rate of job creation. According to BC Stats, the January-to-July 2002 unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 rose to 14.9 per cent in BC., up from 12.9 percent for the same period in 2001

Who is really being affected by the training wage?

It is a myth that most people making minimum wage are teenagers still living with their parents. About 70% of minimum wage earners in BC are over 19 years old, 64% are women, and 48% have some sort of post-secondary education. The majority of minimum wage workers are people of colour. The training wage is an attack on these people, and is creating less job security and more short-term low-wage employment, as employers are hiring people at \$6, then replacing them once they have finished their 500 hours.

The training wage is basically a lowering of the minimum wage. This will affect all workers, as whenever wages are lowered at the bottom, they are lowered right across the board.



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Who Benefits?

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The training wage essentially provides employers with a \$1000 subsidy per employee (they save \$2 per hour for 500 hours). It is a political payoff to the Liberal's friends and corporate sponsors in the tourism, retail and food industries. The Business Council of BC, the Retail Council of Canada and the BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association of BC all wrote submissions to the government calling for the training wage. The APC is putting pressure on the business associations that are endorsing the training wage.

Six Bucks and Campbell's Cuts

Combined with the other Liberal cutbacks and policy changes, the effects of the training wage on poor people has made the situation even worse. With the changes to the Employment Standards Act and the axing of the Human Rights Commission, workers who are illegally earning the training wage have very few avenues to help them. Staffing at the Employment Standards Branch is being cut by 35-50%, creating a huge backlog of claims.

The situation is getting worse as thousands of people are kicked off welfare and disability benefits. More and more people are being forced to compete for jobs that do not even support a minimum standard of living. What will happen to a single parent who is forced off welfare when their child turns 3? A single mother can't possibly support herself and her child at \$6 an hour, especially with the cuts to childcare subsidies.

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Raise the Minimum Wage to \$11 an hour

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Six bucks sucks, but eight isn't great either. A single person would have to make at least \$10 an hour working full-time just to be at the poverty line. This is why the Anti-Poverty Committee demands that the minimum wage be raised to \$11 an hour. Nobody should be forced to work for poverty wages.

Fight Campbell's Training Wage

The BC Liberals won't change their minds about the training wage without serious pressure. Businesses like McDonald's will continue to pay the training wage as long as they can get away with it. This is why it is up to us to end the training wage, to fight back by targeting the businesses that are using it against their employees.

The Anti-Poverty Committee has launched a Campaign to End the Training Wage, and we want you to get involved. We will work with people making the training wage to put pressure on their employers. We will leaflet and picket these businesses, encourage people to boycott them, and disrupt their ability to make money until they stop using the training wage against their workers. The Anti-Poverty Committee will go after the business associations that lobbied for the training wage, and we will fight back until the training wage is gone for good.

Together we will put an end to the training wage legislation. Together we will make \$6 bad for business.

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