

# Work Should Be Rewarded



**TOWN HALL MEETINGS** held this year across greater Toronto heard from people working for low wages in every sector of our economy. Young and old alike, they asserted that gaining a \$10 minimum wage would make a real difference in their lives. But what also became very clear is that precarious employment is rapidly replacing the promise of a stable full-time job. Whether it is working for contractors in the service industry, temp agencies in manufacturing, or for giant retailers - more and more of the work people are doing offers few rights, and little opportunity for advancement.

We listened to the stories and the ideas raised in these forums, and are calling for action to tackle the issues that affect hundreds of thousands of workers in Ontario.

**1** CONTINUE TO MOBILIZE FOR A \$10 MINIMUM WAGE NOW - not a thousand days from now. It should be indexed to inflation - if minimum wage had kept up with the cost of living in Toronto, it would be \$10 already. This will be an election issue in key ridings across Ontario.

**2** UPDATE THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT to cover temporary agencies, “independent” contractors and other forms of non-standard work. Many workers are scared to complain about being cheated - groups like the Workers Action Centre, community legal clinics or trade unions should be able to blow the whistle on companies that break the law.

**3** RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF CONTRACT WORKERS. Before Mike Harris took away their rights, cleaners and cafeteria workers kept their jobs and their union standards when a building owner changed contractors. These “successor rights” should be restored, and the law changed to let workers bargain agreements that can set standards for both chain and franchise-run operations.

**4** RESTORE FULL ORGANIZING RIGHTS FOR ALL WORKERS - to have a union certified based on a majority signing a membership card. Today, most workers are subject to intimidation and reprisals when they try to organize. Only with a union can workers have the power to improve wages, benefits and working conditions.

Liveable wages, decent working conditions and basic benefits are key to our quality of life, and of future generations to come. The principle that work should be rewarded is one worth fighting for.



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