

NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MOTION/RESOLUTION

No. 64 -2017

Moved by 

Seconded by 

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health has a mandate to decrease health inequities such that everyone has equal opportunities for health and can attain their full health potential without disadvantage due to social position or other socially determined circumstances; and

WHEREAS, a day's work deserves a fair day's pay and no one working full-time to support a family should have to live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, the current minimum wage is not adequate to cover basic needs, and low-income individuals and families are more likely to be challenged with social factors such as low education, precarious employment, inadequate housing, and social exclusion; and

WHEREAS, the costs of food, housing, child care and transportation make it increasingly difficult for low-wage workers to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, over 1 in 10 people in the NWHU catchment area (11.1%) are in low-income households and nearly 1 in 5 children (19.4%) live in low-income houses compared with 18.1% provincially; and

WHEREAS, the NWHU region has a higher proportion of the population considered to have lower socioeconomic status when compared with the rest of the province, and this population is at risk of experiencing health inequities, both in terms of health outcomes and access to care; and

WHEREAS, evidence confirms that people with lower incomes have higher rates of mortality, and poorer physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, through the proposed amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act, it is estimated that more than one quarter of Ontario workers will receive an increase in their wages, along with more stable and fair employment conditions; and

WHEREAS, Bill 148 will help to assure health, social and economic benefits for the communities as a whole;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwestern Board of Health commend the provincial government's actions to address the root causes of precarious work through the Changing Workplaces Review of 2015-16 and subsequent introduction of Bill 148; and

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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health support the proposed changes to the Employment Standards Act that expand the pay equity provisions and increase the minimum wage for workers and the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act that better support precarious workers' rights; and that the Northwestern Board of Health share this motion and supporting materials with community agencies, municipalities and elected representatives, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), Ontario Boards of Health and others as appropriate.

carried ✓ Aug. 25/17.


chair