



NORTH BAY & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

Press Release

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Attention: It's about real investment in people

"New Year's will ring in new hope for the lowest earners of our community, because the Ontario Government has given a much needed raise to thousands of people in the Nipissing region," said Henri Giroux, North Bay and District Labour Council President.

"The largest working demographic in the region does retail and service jobs, low, minimum wage jobs, and these workers lived through decades of wage freezes under previous PC and Liberal governments," stated Giroux. "Conservative politicians should have known that eventually the wage market would need correcting."

Low wage workers are no longer students and other people trying to move from entry level positions to higher paying jobs. Times have changed. With union density decreasing, we're seeing the loss of decent work in general, jobs that allow families to make serious investments in the community and their financial future. The benefits of economic growth do not trickle into the hands of low wage workers. That tap broke a long time ago.

As a result of Labour's efforts to push the Liberals to pass Bill 148, thousands of area residents will have renewed hope for a better future. They will make real investments in the community, shop in our local stores, and dine in our local restaurants.

When school starts back up in the New Year, thousands of families will now be able to afford pay for extras like school teams and year-end trips. Schools do their best with fundraisers and food/clothing programs, but it shouldn't have to be this way. Far too many children miss out on the social richness of school life because of poverty.

In the Spring time, when thousands of children join community sports programs, many more families will be able to make real investments in the health and well-being of their children because of bill 148.

"Sadly, we live in a time of price fixing," said Giroux. "The captains of corporate greed hide in plain sight and feel we're worth a \$25 gift card."

“What we need are real investments in people, ways of ensuring prosperity for all people, not just wealthy CEOs and business elites.”