

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Hon. John Streicker



On May 2, 2017 Kate White, Member for Takhini-Kopper King

asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) 182 of *Hansard*

submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____

gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: Mr. Speaker, why is the minister satisfied with the status quo when there is an \$8 gap between the minimum wage and a living wage?

OR

This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

May 2, 2017 - Hon. Mr. Streicker: I wonder if we took a look at what the cost of housing is in Nunavut and the cost of food and services is in Nunavut compared to a \$13 minimum wage — how that would compare. I will do that analysis and I hope to share it with the member opposite. I actually think we would look somewhat favourable in that light, but let's do the numbers and figure it out.

On May 2nd, 2017, at page(s) 182 of *Hansard*

The response is as follows:

As previously discussed, we feel that Yukon's approach of increasing minimum wage based on inflation (Consumer Price Index) is a strong policy which is clear and consistent. When comparing the Yukon minimum wage against the other territories, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics has measured the Mixed Basket Measure (MBM) for a modest 4-person family in Whitehorse and Yellowknife to be:

- 2017 Whitehorse MBM annual expenses: \$48,225
- 2017 Yellowknife MBM annual expenses: \$51,657

While Yukon's minimum wage, \$11.32/hr. is lower than the Northwest Territories (NWT) minimum wage of \$12.50/hr., the ratio of minimum wage to MBM is very close for the two capitals. Further, based on a number of factors, it is our estimation that this ratio is likely more favourable for Yukon workers when we compare territory-wide MBM.

Yukon communities are more connected by ground transportation, which is a major driver of the cost of goods, so costs are likely lower compared to NWT communities. Also, Whitehorse represents about 75% of the population of Yukon, while Yellowknife represents about 45% of the NWT population.

At this time, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics does not have data available from Nunavut to calculate the MBM for Iqaluit. However, based on a comparison of rent and food prices, it appears that the MBM for Nunavut is likely significantly higher than Yukon.

Based on this information, my understanding is that at present our minimum wage is comparable to, or better than the minimum wage in the other territories.

This research and analysis is key to fully understanding the status of employment, income and social wellbeing in Yukon.

17 Oct 2017

Date


Signature