

April 4, 2022

Harry Bains

Minister of Labour

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Harwinder Sandhu

MLA for Vernon-Monashee

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Re: Clarification required for minimum wage

Minister Bains and MLA Sandhu

Your government recently announced an increase to minimum wage and that future increases will be connected to the rate of inflation.

Private sector and non-profit employers want to support their workforce equitably. However, members of our Chamber are raising questions about the recent announcement, and specifically:

- The timing of increases to minimum wage. Will it be increased annually or more than once a year?
- How will the rate of increase be calculated?
- How will minimum wage be impacted if the rate of inflation decreases?

As previously mentioned, employers are committed to creating a positive environment for their employees, but the reality is that increased labour costs influence an employer's ability to operate. In the private sector, it may mean higher prices for consumers while for non-profits, service reductions are often the only means to absorb increased costs.

For employers to fulfill all of their obligations, they require certainty when it comes to budgeting. They need to know specific details so they can plan ahead.

We would ask that you provide clarity to British Columbian employers on minimum wage.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Robin Cardew
President
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

CC. BC Official Opposition
City of Vernon Mayor and Council
City of Vernon Economic Development
District of Coldstream Mayor and Council
Regional District of North Okanagan Board of Directors
Okanagan-Shuswap Chambers of Commerce