

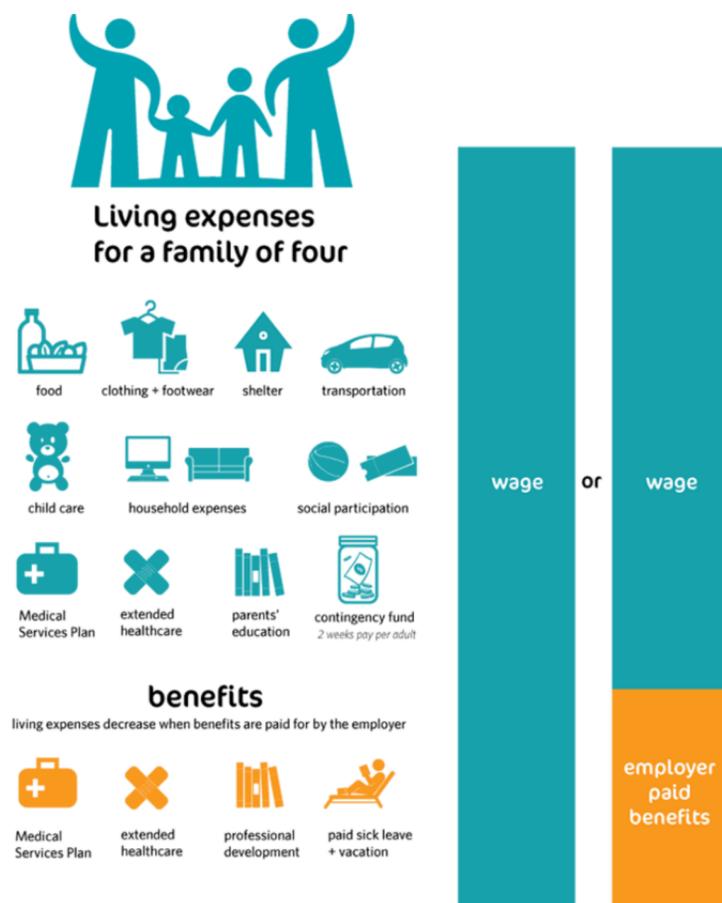
A LIVING WAGE IS THE HOURLY AMOUNT A FAMILY NEEDS TO COVER BASIC EXPENSES

These basic expenses include:

- Food
- Clothing
- Rental housing
- Child care
- Transportation
- Small savings to cover illness or emergencies

The living wage calculation is based on a two-parent family with two children – the most common family unit in BC – and each parent working full-time (35 hours per week).

The living wage changes based on costs in each region.



Living Wage in Golden: \$22.07/hour

In Golden, we researched these expenses to make sure that the cost of living was accurately represented:

- Shelter: current median cost of a 3 bedroom rental (advertising sites)
- Food: current most affordable local prices for the items in the National Nutritious Food Basket
- Clothing & Footwear: current most affordable local prices (when possible) for the items in the National Market Basket Measure
- Childcare: one full-time child and 1 school-age child (after-school, school holidays)



shelter

\$1,800/month
+ utilities



food

\$1,148/month



clothing + footwear

\$2,612/year



child care

\$16,324/year



transportation

\$5,000/year

A LIVING WAGE LIFTS WORKING FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY

A living wage is different than a minimum wage. The minimum wage is the legislated minimum set by the provincial government.

The minimum wage should be set at a rate high enough to lift an individual worker out of poverty. An adequate minimum wage is the government's responsibility to address working poverty.

A living wage is an opportunity for employers to do better. A living wage calls on employers to meet a higher standard for their both staff and major contractors, to ensure that wages reflect the true costs of living in a community and that parents can earn what they need to support their families.

A living wage does not cover additional expenses such as:

- Debt repayment from credit cards, loans or other interest payments
- Future savings for home ownership, retirement or children's university education
- Anything beyond minimal recreation, entertainment and holiday costs

Golden Community Economic Development (The Coop) worked with Work BC and Living Wage for Families BC, following Living Wage Canada's calculation guidelines while updating the local costs for Food, Clothing & Footwear.

For more information on the process, visit:

- Living Wage Canada: <http://livingwagecanada.ca/>
- Living Wage for Families BC: <https://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/>