



ALBERTA

JOBS, SKILLS, TRAINING AND LABOUR

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Edmonton - Riverview*

AR64179

August 5, 2015

Mr. Ken Kobly  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Alberta Chambers of Commerce  
1808, 10025 - 102A Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2Z2

Dear Mr. Kobly:

Thank you for your June 16, 2015 letter and membership survey results regarding the increase to Alberta's minimum wage. I appreciate your concerns about the potential effects minimum wage increases could have on businesses, citizens and workers in Alberta. As Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour, responsible for employment standards including the minimum wage, I am pleased to respond.

Our government promised to implement a fair minimum wage of \$15 per hour by 2018, and that is what we are going to do. As a first step, Alberta's minimum wage will increase by \$1 to \$11.20 per hour and the liquor server minimum wage will increase by \$1.50, from \$9.20 to \$10.70 per hour, effective October 1, 2015. The differential wage rate for liquor servers will be phased out completely in 2016.

Increasing the minimum wage is essential to helping low-income earners and families who struggle to meet their daily needs. The minimum wage in Alberta has fallen behind the earnings of Albertans in general. The Parkland Institute points out that Alberta has the highest average weekly earnings at \$29.24 per hour, yet the lowest general minimum wage of \$10.20. Also, we have the greatest income inequality in Canada. We must start bridging that gap.

We are mindful of the possible effects minimum wage increases could have on workers and business owners in Alberta. In June, we consulted with key stakeholders from employer and labour organizations, social advocacy groups and academics to hear their concerns and advice. As we plan the next increases between now and 2018, we will carefully analyze the effects of the increases and continue consulting with stakeholders, including your organization.

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This increase is the first step in a four-year process to follow through on our commitment. We will ensure we provide businesses adequate time to make operational adjustments for each increase. For more information about Alberta's minimum wage, please visit [www.work.alberta.ca/minimumwage](http://www.work.alberta.ca/minimumwage).

The views that you have put forward are important to us as we carry out our responsibilities to the citizens of this province. As we develop our path forward we will continue to consider all perspectives on this issue.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Sigurdson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lori Sigurdson  
Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education  
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour