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Statistics of Low-Wage Workers in Alberta

The following statistics were purchased from Statistics Canada by Public Interest Alberta with the support of the Alberta College of Social Workers. The numbers are the latest available statistics and are the number of employed Albertans in each category for the calendar year ending March 31, 2011.

Alberta – Statistics

One out of every 4 workers earns less than \$15/hour

- There were 421,800 Albertans earning less than \$15 hour out of a total number of employed Albertans of 1,686,000. In other words, 25% (just over one out of every 4 workers) is making less than \$15/hour.
- 110,500 Alberta workers earn less than \$10/hour. 234,200 (13.9%) earn less than \$15/hour.

The majority of low-wage workers are in their prime earning years, trying to go to post-secondary education or support themselves and their families.

- 78 % of workers earning less than \$15/hour are over the age of 20. (22.5% are between the ages of 20 – 24, 32.3% are between the ages of 25 and 45, and 23.5% are older than 45 years of age).

The majority of low-wage workers are women

- 260,900 (or 62%) of the 421,800 people earning less than \$15/hour were women.

Wood Buffalo– Statistics

The number of low-wage workers is lower than the provincial average but this does not take into account the very high cost of living in Fort McMurray.

- There are 12,700 (18.7%) earned less than \$15/hour out of total of 67,500 employed people in the Wood Buffalo Region.
- 6100 people earning less than \$12/hour, or 7.2% in and 2800 earned less than \$10/hour

9300 (73%) of these employees earning less than \$15/hour are in their prime earning years

- 2600 (20%) are between 20 – 24 years of age, 4400 (35%) are between the ages of 25 – 45, and 2300 (18%) are over the age of 45.

The majority (7700 = 61%) of low-wage workers in Wood Buffalo are women.