

## Questions and Responses to Questions Posed by the Union of Northern Workers

By: David Wasylciw

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Q1. Do you support increasing the minimum wage to an actual living wage and indexing it to the consumer price index?

A1. A minimum living wage can be subjective depending on the individual or the community an individual is in. Market forces should ensure that the wages being offered by local businesses meet a living wage standard, while there are a multitude of tools (beyond a higher minimum wage) that could be considered to fight poverty and ensure that the working poor get the support that they need. Rather than pegging minimum wage to the consumer price index it may be more beneficial to require a mandated review on a two year cycle so that the current state of the economy and job market can be considered.

Q2. With all the talk of fiscal restraint and a recession, what would you do to safe guard our Public Services and jobs? Please explain.

A2. I would work hard to ensure that the Public Service has the capacity necessary to deliver the programs and services of the GNWT. I am committed to the retention of valued and meaningful jobs that provide necessary services to the public. Restraint and accountability are very important to keep in mind whenever public money is spent.

Q3. How would you work to ensure that future legislation is not divisive of our population, please explain.

A3. I believe it is important that legislators uphold charter rights and adhere to the spirit and intent of legislation and policies that recognize special needs and circumstances of individuals.