



THE CANADIAN PSW NETWORK

The Professional Voice For PSWs

www.canadianpswnetwork.org

November 12th, 2021

Letter of Support for Bill 266

We submit this letter to again show our support for MPP Jamie West's Bill 266, the proposed wage floor for Personal Support Workers (PSWs).

The current general minimum wage in Ontario is now set at \$15.00 an hour which is approximately \$1.00 an hour less than what many PSWs are currently making while caring for human lives.

Many seasoned PSWs have teenaged and young adult children who make more money than they do.

Many PSWs, specifically in home care, are often forced to work 12-14 hour days in order to be paid for 8 hours of work, and receive little compensation for the vehicle gas & maintenance costs that come out of their own pockets. This alone is a massive deterrent to attracting and retaining PSWs.

Personal Support Workers have a specific skill set of training and practice that should be acknowledged.

Many new and seasoned PSWs are leaving the field because of low wages and little to no recognition or support; it's a serious crisis across the healthcare profession spectrum. We need to make a great leap forward in how PSWs are supported, and in finding ways to recruit and retain them.

We need to change the current narrative.

Thousands of PSWs don't qualify for the wage enhancement given during this pandemic, and never have because of the sector they work in. The selection process as it stands is biased, creating division and animosity between PSWs in the different sectors across an already strained and unstable industry.

We think that starting with a minimum wage floor for PSWs across all sectors is a step in the right direction to showing them how crucial they are to caring for our society's most vulnerable population.

It's time to stop telling PSWs how much they are valued, and start showing them.

Let's stop devaluing them and taking advantage of their kind hearted nature.

Kindness doesn't pay the bills.

Kind Regards,

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