

NDP KEY COMMITMENT: RAISE MINIMUM WAGE, ROLL BACK McGUINTY PAY HIKE

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Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton says working families deserve a fair day's pay for a hard day's work. His second key commitment is raising the minimum wage to \$10 an hour and rolling back the \$40,000 pay hike Dalton McGuinty gave himself last Christmas.

"Hard-working families deserve a fair day's pay," said Hampton. "There's nothing fair about a premier who hikes his own pay by \$40,000, but denies a badly-needed raise for Ontario's 1.2-million lowest income earners. New Democrats will stand up for a fair deal for hard-working families."

Speaking in the campaign headquarters of Ottawa-Centre NDP candidate Will Murray, Hampton said that MPPs were already in the top 10 per cent of income earners when Liberals and Conservatives teamed up to ram through their pay hike in just eight days. Now, MPPs are in the top five per cent, with Dalton McGuinty in the top two per cent with a wage of \$198,620.

Meanwhile, McGuinty's unfair minimum wage of \$8 an hour continues to leave thousands of working people in poverty – primarily women and New Canadians. "At the current minimum wage, a woman living in Ottawa or any other Ontario city and raising two kids has to work 75 hours a week to lift her family above the poverty line," said Hampton.

"Dalton McGuinty is out of touch with working families. He puts himself first. The NDP will keep fighting for wage fairness for working families. That's a commitment you can count on," he said.

Ever since Liberal and Conservative MPPs rammed through the pay hike, Hampton has donated his pay raise to charity. In the first eight months of this year, Hampton donated \$12,935 to charities after receiving \$12,330.22 as a result of McGuinty's MPP pay hike.