



Income security and a Living Wage: a “Made in Revelstoke” Initiative for Poverty Reduction project).

Information for survey participants about a survey of businesses potentially affected by the introduction of a Living Wage strategy in Revelstoke. This briefing note is to give you some more information about the project, and in particular what we would be hoping you can contribute, and what we expect to result.

Why are we doing this study?

As a community, Revelstoke has a strong vision and desire to be a great place to live, work and play. Yet, in the last few years, the rising cost of living has emerged as a community issue. Consequently, community-wide poverty reduction has been identified as a high priority for action. One of the top community goals in both the poverty reduction strategy and action plan is to improve income security for all residents. Yet one of the most significant challenges in our community is the growing gap between the rising cost of living and employers’ ability to pay a ‘living wage’. A living wage is the hourly amount a family needs to cover basic expenses, such as food, clothing, shelter and transportation, in a particular community. This study provides information to explore the opportunities and obstacles associated with implementing a living wage program in Revelstoke.

How is the study done?

A University of British Columbia – Okanagan based research team has undertaken an initial impact assessment of living wages in the Revelstoke community based on data available in the Revelstoke Labour Market Survey (2015, GRP Educational Services) and from Statistics Canada. We have identified key economic sectors of the Revelstoke community most likely to be impacted by the implementation of a living wage.

This survey is designed to provide data to further assess the implementation of a living wage in the Revelstoke community by focusing on specific areas identified by the initial assessment. The survey will be conducted online with email invitation to participate. The survey will remain open to potential participants for three weeks after the initial email invitation. The survey will obtain data on business activity (including location of main activities, costs and customers), workforce characteristics (including recruitment, training and retention) and anticipated impacts of implementing a living wage. The survey will be conducted once in the Revelstoke community across a cross section of economic sectors that might be affected. All businesses in Revelstoke will be eligible to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Mike Evans, either by email at mike.evans@ubc.ca, by phone at 250-807-9401, or by mail, Dr. Mike Evans, CCGS, I.K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, The University of British Columbia, 1147 Research Rd., Kelowna, BC, V1V 1V7.

If you are interested and willing to participate, please click on the following link, this will take you to the survey and a consent form that has more detail for you to consider before participating. <https://survey.ubc.ca/s/revelstokelivingwage/>. The survey is only available on line, and will be open for two weeks after you receive this email.