

**Statement from Kevin Dorrius, General Manager, Community Futures Revelstoke  
(Kevin can be reached at 250-814-9790)**

Being involved in the update calculation of Revelstoke's Living Wage, has been one of the most thought provoking exercises I have been involved with in my career in Community Development. While I don't think too many people are surprised by this figure at this point, it is a reminder that despite all of the economic success Revelstoke has seen, we have major challenges around affordability, housing, and food security that need to be addressed. I am looking forward to engaging in a positive community wide discussion in seeking innovative and sustainable solutions to these community challenges.

**Statement from Jill Zacharias, City of Revelstoke Social Development Coordinator  
(Jill can be reached at 250-814-3875)**

The main value - for Revelstoke - in calculating the living wage, is to get a true sense of the real cost of living in our community so we can tailor economic and social development strategies accordingly.

In Revelstoke, the big influences are the cost of housing, food and other things like gas prices. I am not surprised that the large centres like Metro Vancouver and Victoria, and very isolated regions like Clayoquot Sound, are the only places in BC higher than Revelstoke. Being a resort community, we have the combined influences of 'big city' factors as well as those of an isolated community.

Our living wage calculation is a modest figure that uses very conservative measures for the cost of housing (CMHC Rental Market Survey), and food (regional average from 2015 Cost of Eating Report), and basic costing for social inclusion, but does not include savings for school or retirement or emergencies.

Using the latest taxfiler data available (2014) and comparing total actual incomes to our cost of living analysis, we now know that **33%** of 'couple families with children' in our community have total incomes below a living wage (total needed is about \$68,500). This is just below Metro Vancouver, where 34% of families have incomes below a living wage.

Our intention is not to pressure employers to pay the living wage, but we would like to focus on strategies that offset or decrease the cost of living (like affordable housing initiatives) while attracting higher paying jobs. With a significant gap between the cost of living and the ability of (particularly small) businesses to pay a living wage, we would also like to work together with employers and the business community to explore alternative human resources strategies that might go a long way to supporting their employees to be active, engaged citizens in our community.

From a social development perspective, we understand that when people are struggling to make ends meet or having to work more than one job to get by, it is very difficult for them to participate in fully in both family and community life. It's all about the overall health and well-being of our community and ensuring that both individuals and the community as a whole are thriving.

Many thanks to Community Futures for supporting our living wage recalculation! **This has been an initiative of the Revelstoke Poverty Reduction Working Group.**