

# 2015

## GRANDE PRAIRIE LIVING WAGE

In conjunction with becoming a *City Reducing Poverty* with the Vibrant Communities Canada movement, in 2013, Grande Prairie released Living Wage estimates for the City.

Grande Prairie's Living Wage estimates have been updated using the most recent data available. The resulting 2015 Living Wage estimates are compared to the 2012 and 2014 estimates.

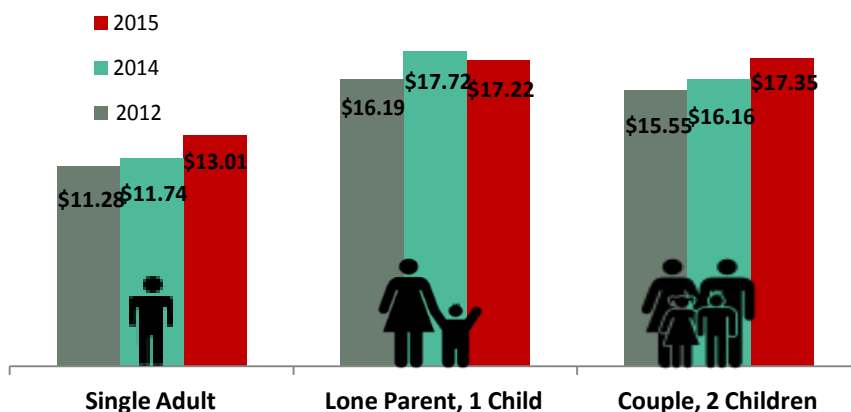
For the couple family and single adult, the Living Wage increased more than a dollar over last year. However, the Living Wage rate for the Lone Parent Family decreased. This was, in part, due to financial assistance received through the City's Low Income Access Program. Eligibility requirements for the program were changed in 2014.

In addition to the Low Income Access Program, the City's Community Social Development (CSD) department takes action to address poverty and promote social objectives through other programs. The Senior Property Tax Rebate and the administration of the United Way Emergency Fund are examples. CSD continues to look for new and innovative ways to build a community that we can all be proud of.

# \$17.35

**per adult per hour**

is Grande Prairie's 2015 Living Wage for a family with 2 working parents and 2 children without employer health benefits.



**Living Wage** tells us about:

*The amount of income an individual or family requires to meet their basic needs, to maintain a safe, decent standard of living in their communities and to save for future needs and goals* (Vibrant Communities Calgary, 2012).

**Living Wage** benefits:

### **Community**

- Poverty reduction
- Enhanced Community Pride
- Stimulation of local spending

### **Businesses**

- Increased Productivity
- Improved Customer Satisfaction
- Decreased internal shoplifting
- Decreased staff turnover
- Improved Corporate Image

### **Employees**

- Improved Health
- Better Quality of life

# How was Grande Prairie’s Living Wage calculated?

The *Canadian Living Wage Framework* (CLWF) developed by Vibrant Communities Canada was used as a guide for Grande Prairie’s 2015 Living Wage Update.

**Calculation Method** – Living Wage is the hourly wage rate that allows this formula to balance:

**Annual Family Expenses**

=

**Employment Income**

+

**Income from Government Transfers**

-

**Taxes**

**Annual Family Expenses**

**Budget Exclusions**

×

Special dietary needs

×

Ownina a home

×

Credit card, loan or other debt/interest payments

×

Savings for retirement

×

RRSP, RESP, or RDSP contributions

×

Costs of caring for a disabled, seriously ill, or elderly family member

×

Hobbies

×

Pet ownership

×

Parking

×

×

Personal life or disability insurance

×

## Annual Family Expenses

This chart shows the annual expenses used in the 2015 calculation.

