

Tips for Presenting to the Fair Wages Commission

What does the Fair Wages Commission need to hear?

- Introduce yourself with your name, where you work, and what position you hold.
- What are the effects of low wages on your life, on your health and on your family?
- How will your life be improved by a \$15/hour minimum wage?
- What makes you angry or discouraged about your work? Are there other issues besides wage that negatively affect your work life?

Key Messages on the Minimum Wage

- The current minimum wage keeps workers in BC in poverty.
- Workers can't afford to wait until 2021 for a \$15/hour minimum wage.
- We need one minimum wage for all workers: liquor servers, farmworkers and live-in caregivers should not make less!

Tips for Presenting

- You are the expert on your experience and the one who can speak about how low wages affect you or those in your community.
- The best presentations are personal stories and examples including specific details and how you felt about the experience. Don't worry about memorizing facts and figures.
- Prepare some notes to help you remember the main points, but don't spend your time reading a speech. Instead, try to look at the commission and tell the story naturally.
- Try to take a friend or family member with you for support.
- Take your time. Take a deep breath.

Facts about a \$15/hour Minimum Wage

If you don't know the answer to a question, don't worry. You are the expert on your own experiences and your personal story. But, if you feel like you want to include some facts in your presentation or responses, here are a few quick ones that you can link back to your own experience:

- A \$15/hour minimum wage puts money in workers' pockets, which is spent in their local communities, buying groceries, paying rent and spending at local businesses.
- Workers living in poverty experience stress and other health issues, leading to greater health care needs and increased costs for our healthcare system.
- A business that relies on keeping low-wage workers in poverty does not have a good business model.