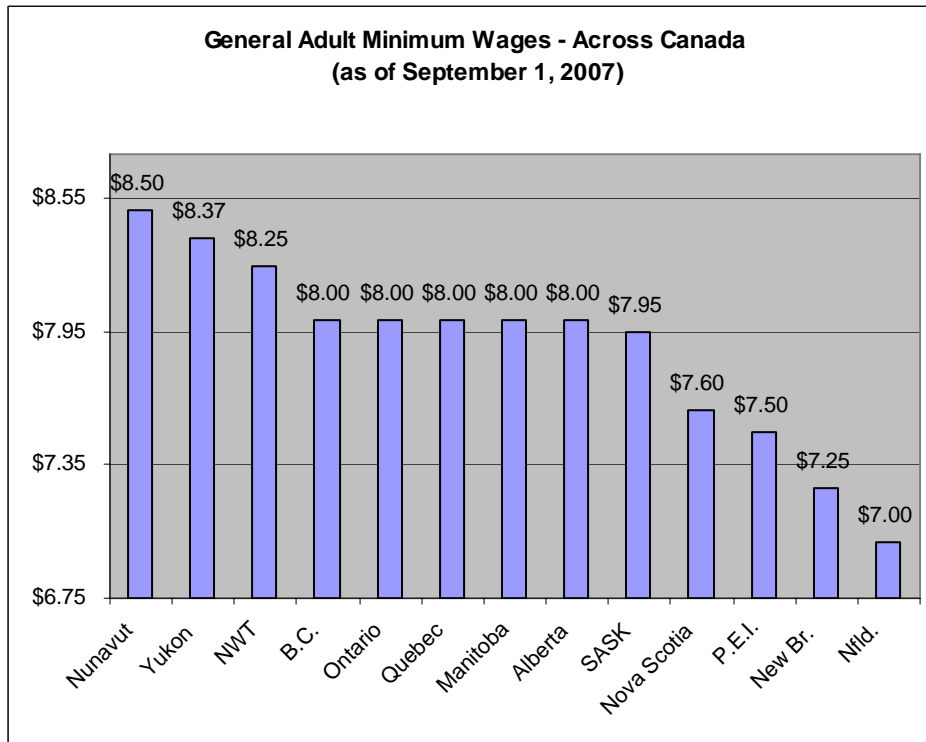


BACKGROUND

- Saskatchewan's last wage increase was announced in 2005 and took place in three-phases, with the final increase occurring as of March 1, 2007. The minimum wage in the province is currently \$7.95 per hour. This was an increase of 19.5 per cent for minimum wage workers.
- As of September 1, 2007 Saskatchewan had the ninth highest minimum wage out of 13 Canadian jurisdictions.



- Saskatchewan will increase its minimum wage by a \$1.30 in three-phases concluding in 2009.
- The Low Income Cut-off (LICO) is a measure of income inequality and is most often referred to as the poverty line. Statistics Canada calculates 35 separate LICOs based on family size and community population. For Saskatchewan, the most often quoted LICO is the one which applies to single individuals in cities the size of Regina and Saskatoon - the LICO for 2006 was an annual income of \$18,262, or \$8.78 per hour.
- Prior to May 1, 2010 the minimum wage will be adjusted to a level equivalent to Statistics Canada's 2009 LICO for a single individual living in a city with a population of 100,000 to 499,999.

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services. Indexing to the CPI in Saskatchewan will begin in 2010 and will ensure that minimum wage earners at least maintain their standards of living. If the CPI goes down year over year, the minimum wage would remain constant.
- Only two jurisdictions in Canada have an indexed minimum wage. The Yukon sets its minimum wage yearly based on the percentage increase in the CPI for the city of Whitehorse. In Alberta, the minimum wage will be set yearly, based on the percentage increase for the previous calendar year in the average industrial wage (AIW) for Alberta.
- *The Labour Standards Act* currently requires the Minimum Wage Board to review and make recommendations to the Minister of Labour at least every two years on the minimum wage. A copy of the 2007 report is available at www.labour.gov.sk.ca