



Support the Campaign for a Living Wage

Petition of Unite for a Citizens Initiated Referendum

To the House of Representatives, we, the undersigned, pursuant to the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993, ask that an indicative referendum be held on the following question:

“Should the adult minimum wage be raised in steps over the next three years, starting with an immediate rise to \$15 per hour, until it reaches 66% of the average total hourly earnings as defined in the Quarterly Employment Survey?”

	<i>(Print clearly please)</i>		Birthdate (optional)	<i>(Print clearly please)</i>	
	Signature	Given or First Names Surname or Family Name		Residential Address	
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Return all completed petition forms to:

Unite Union, Freepost UNITE , PO Box 7175 , Wellesley St. Auckland 1141

www.unite.org.nz

Freephone 0800 2 UNITE (0800 286 483)

The wording of the question and the form have been approved under the Citizens Initiated Referenda Act 1993.

Keep in touch



Optional contact information - *not* part of the C.I.R. petition form and will *not* be submitted as part of the petition.

(Print clearly please)
Contact phone number and email address:

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We will only use this information to keep you informed about our campaigns. We will not give your details to a third party.

Background Information

1. Campaign for a Living Wage

- This petition is organised by the Unite Union – a union with many low paid workers. It is supported by many other organisations and trade unions.
- If 300,000 people sign this petition before 1st May next year the government has to ask every voter in the country to vote on whether to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
- A victory will make it easier to lift all wages (even for those paid more than \$15 an hour).

2. Workers need a wage increase

- Workers have got poorer; the rich got richer.
- In 2004 the 30% of New Zealanders on the lowest incomes were actually worse off in real dollars than they were 20 years ago. The top 10% were 21% better off.
- In 2000 CEOs got 8 times the average wage.
- By 2006 it was 19 times higher.

3. \$15 now, then 66% of the average wage

- All workers should earn a living wage - \$15 an hour or \$600 a week is a good start.
- Retired couples already have their superannuation set at 66% of the average wage.
- All other state benefits are automatically increased each year by the inflation rate. Workers should have the same guarantee.

4. Effect on employment

- There is no evidence that it is harmful. The minimum wage was \$6.12 in 1990. Last year it was \$12. During that period unemployment dropped from 11% to under 4%.
- In 2003, after 16 - 17 year olds got a 41% increase, teen employment actually rose by almost 15%.

5. Effect on inflation

- Inflation has stayed low over the last 20 years whilst the minimum wage doubled.
- Low paid workers tend to spend any wage in-

crease in New Zealand. That stimulates the economy. Richer people spend their extra money on luxury imports, overseas holidays and foreign investments. That's not much help.

6. Half million workers get wage increase

- 100,000 workers are on the minimum wage (\$12.50 an hour). 450,000 workers are paid less than \$15 an hour.
- Most other workers currently paid over \$15 an hour can expect a relativity wage increase.

7. Political support

- The Labour, Green and Maori Parties support \$15 an hour.
- NZCTU and the union movement do too.
- Even National says wages are too low and want parity with Australia. The current minimum wage in Australia is equal to NZ\$17.50.

Sources and more information: www.unite.org.nz

Our details:

Post: Freepost UNITE, PO Box 7175, Wellesley St. Auckland 1141

Email: support@unite.org.nz

Phone: 0800 2 UNITE (0800 286 483)

Download a printable PDF at: www.unite.org.nz

Send this sheet back to us in an envelope when finished. Please write in the details below in case we need to follow anything up with you.

Collectors name:

Contact phone:

Worksite/Group:

Petition Tips and Rules

This petition has to comply with the Citizen's Initiated Referenda Act. To ensure we do everything right, here is some advice.

1. Please ensure that the first person who signs the sheet fills it out clearly and gives their contact details. This helps and encourages others to do the same.
2. Each line must have a signature and a clearly written name and residential address (not postal box or R.D. number).
3. The Date of Birth box is optional. It helps us get it right if two people have the same name.
4. Only people enrolled to vote in New Zealand in May 2010 will count officially towards the 300,000 signatures we need.
5. People aged under 18 (as of next May 2010) and those without NZ residency can't enrol to vote. We still want them to support us, just put an **X** in front of their signature so we don't count them.
6. Put a **?** in front of any signature if a person is unsure if they are enrolled to vote or think they may have signed the petition elsewhere. We'll check it out.
7. No written comments on the form are allowed. If it's defaced, don't add any more names but still send it in.
8. The email and phone contacts are optional but encourage people to give them, so we can contact them if they aren't on the roll or we have a query about their details.
9. Later we will remind them to vote when the referendum is sent out (sometime late 2010).
10. They can get our regular e-newsletter, but only if they want it.

Contact us if you are not sure of anything.

Thank you for helping the campaign.