

Post-secondary tuition fees increased more in BC than in any other province since 2001 (Generation Squeeze, 2017).

“When we graduate with this massive amount of debt, it keeps us from starting our own businesses, buying houses, starting families, being active and engaged citizens in the economy,”

—Katie Marocchi, chairperson of the BC chapter of the Canadian Federation of Students (Business in Vancouver, 2013).

FAIR WAGES FOR HARD WORK



As the cost of living in BC skyrocketed, Christy Clark let BC’s minimum wage fall behind. Today, a person working full time in a minimum wage job simply can’t make ends meet.

John Horgan and the BC NDP believe that if you are working full-time hours, you shouldn’t have to take a second job just to put food on your table. Unfortunately, with the high cost of living, minimum wage workers are having to do just that, especially those with families to support.

And while BC falls behind, other jurisdictions are showing the way. Alberta has recently committed to a \$15/hour minimum wage, In Seattle, where the \$15/hour minimum is the law, restaurants are thriving and the economy has strengthened. That’s because people earning minimum wage are spending it on essentials, putting money right back into their local economy.

John Horgan and the BC NDP will bring in a \$15/hour minimum wage by 2021, with increases each year. Phasing in the increases will allow businesses to adjust, ensuring that jobs aren’t at risk and that employment in minimum wage sectors actually increases, as has been the case in Seattle. Once we reach \$15/hour, we will index the minimum wage to inflation to ensure that we don’t fall behind.

- › We will work with the federal government towards a national pharmacare program and we will support efforts to bulk purchase medication, bringing costs down.
- › We will enhance support to British Columbians living with, and at risk of, diabetes and remove the age restriction on access to the insulin pump program for people over 25.

RESPECT AND QUALITY CARE FOR SENIORS

Christy Clark isn't working for BC seniors. Nine in ten seniors' care homes don't meet minimum government standards. And while the number of seniors grows, the amount of home care funded by the province is shrinking.

John Horgan and the BC NDP will make seniors a priority. We'll help seniors stay in their own homes longer. We'll improve the quality and consistency of care in care homes. And we'll create a committee of the legislature, tasked with improving the care and lives of seniors.

Helping seniors stay in their homes

Supporting seniors at home as long as possible is the right thing to do. Boosting home supports will not only help seniors stay at home longer, it will reduce the stress experienced by family members, friends and other unpaid caregivers.

- › But, BC Liberal choices have made home support visits too short, rushed and stressful. This leads to seniors having to enter expensive, full time care early. John Horgan and the BC NDP will improve home care.
- › We will increase the length of home support visits and expand the scope of services provided, helping seniors stay in their homes longer.
- › We'll also create a capital fund and work with local governments and community partners to build and strengthen seniors' centres