

# 2024 Single Person Living Wage in Whitehorse, Yukon

The **LIVING WAGE** is equal to the hourly rate of pay that a household must earn while working full-time to ensure that its basic needs including housing, food, and clothing are met. Living wage calculations are an effective way to measure the cost of living in a community in a way that directly integrates the role of public policy, including the provision of social services and the tax-and-transfer system. They show the affordability challenges facing low- and modest-income households as well as opportunities for policy changes to improve affordability and to reduce poverty.



Living wage for  
each parent:

**\$22.72/hr**

(based on a 35 hr work week)



Living wage for  
a single person:

**\$28.39/hr**

(based on a 35 hr work week)

A difference  
of \$5.67/hr!



## A tax on being single

It is expensive to live in Whitehorse. It costs even more if you are single. This difference is mainly due to profound increase in the cost of living in recent years coupled with improvements to government policies that benefit households with children (e.g., the Canada Child Benefit, universal low-fee child care).

There are very few income supports targeted to single individuals in Yukon. There are higher rates of poverty for singles in Whitehorse and they are at more risk of experiencing unsafe living situations, food insecurity or core housing need.

## A means of comparison

The Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition has calculated the living wage for Whitehorse every year since 2016 based on the methodology outlined in the Canadian Living Wage Framework. These calculations were based on the cost of living for a reference household consisting of two adults and two children. A limitation of this approach is that the reference family does not reflect the diversity of living arrangements in Whitehorse.

In recent years, other Canadian jurisdictions have calculated the living wage for single-person households. These calculations have consistently shown that a single person typically needs to earn much more per hour working full-time to meet their basic needs than those in the reference family.

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Research shows that paying workers a living wage produces health, social, and economic benefits for the whole community. **Want to learn more?** [www.yapc.ca](http://www.yapc.ca)



Yukon Anti-Poverty  
**COALITION**  
anti-pauvreté du Yukon