



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

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September 8, 2023

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON, K1A

Attention: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

RE: Establishing a Guaranteed Livable Income

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on September 5, 2023 passed the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Korstanje

Seconded by: Councillor Freake

Whereas the Canadian livable wage for Niagara Region, two years ago was determined to be \$19.80. This was \$6000 below the annual income of a minimum wage employee; and

Whereas our residents on programs such as Ontario Works, receive targeted fixed monthly incomes of \$733, and ODSP recipients receive \$1376; and

Whereas at the current Ontario minimum wage rate, a person working 37.5 hours per week will earn approximately \$2,500 monthly (before tax); and

Whereas the median rent for one bedroom in Grimsby as of August 2023 is now \$2000 a month; and

Whereas rent is considered affordable, when it is less than 30% of income. In Niagara west, rent is approximately 272% of Ontario Works, 145% of Ontario Disability Support Services, 75% of minimum wage full-time, and 150% of minimum wage part time; and

Whereas an annual 2.5% allowable rent increase can be combined with an additional 3-6.5% capital investment increase, raising the cost of rental housing another minimum of \$110 monthly; and

Whereas there are no housing units under Niagara Regional Housing for single adults or families with dependents, including 2,3,4 or five bedrooms in our community; and

Whereas the Grimsby Benevolent Fund reported that in 2022:

- 70+ households received monthly rental supplement totaling \$237,744
- \$79,500 was invested into one time emergency housing support as of June 7, 2023
- 78 households are receiving monthly financial benefits to make rental housing more affordable; and

Whereas food inflation was 8.3% and groceries rose by 9.1%; and

Whereas the Grimsby Food Bank numbers from June 2023 reported:

- 19 new households
- 447 served households
- 1055 served individuals
- 7 emergency visits; and

Whereas the Grimsby Economic Strategic Plan identified the general high cost of living and housing affordability as primary obstacles in our workforce attraction.

Therefore be it resolved that The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby circulate correspondence to Ontario municipalities encouraging them not only to collect data of their housing and poverty statistics, but also to examine their pending economic vulnerability as a result.

Be it further resolved that The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby encourage these same municipalities to join us in advocating on behalf of our communities with this data, and by writing a letter to the Prime Minister, Premier, and local politicians calling for a united effort in establishing a Guaranteed Livable Income program.

Be it further resolved the Town of Grimsby Clerks Department circulates this resolution to Niagara West MP Dean Allison and Niagara West MPP Sam Oosterhoff, requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt.

Be it further resolved that The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby, through its Finance and Human Resources departments, undertake a comprehensive assessment to explore the feasibility and implementation of a living wage policy for all Town of Grimsby employees, with the aim of ensuring that all municipal workers receive fair compensation that aligns with the principles of a living wage and that staff be directed to explore becoming a living wage employer.

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk
Town Clerk

cc. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West