

Ministry of Labour

Ministère du Travail



Office of the Minister

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FEB 02 2006

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ALPHA

Ms. Linda Stewart  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
502 - 425 University Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your correspondence addressed to the Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services, and me providing your association's resolution calling on the government to review social assistance rates and the minimum wage.

As you know, the government made a public commitment to raise the minimum wage annually over a four-year period. The general minimum wage was increased for the third time to \$7.75 on February 1, 2006, and will be increased again to \$8 in February 2007. Before the first scheduled increase in February 2004, the provincial minimum wage had been frozen for nine years. These increases to the minimum wage will help keep vulnerable employees from falling further behind the rest of Ontario employees and give them a chance to share in some of the benefits of Ontario's economic growth. The increases also balance the need to keep Ontario businesses financially stable and competitive.

Any increase to the minimum wage beyond this four-year commitment would require consideration by the government. I assure you that the views of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies will be taken into account in any review of the minimum wage that is undertaken.

Thank you again for sharing your views on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Peters".

Steve Peters  
Minister

c: The Honourable Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services  
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care