

ISARC Welcomes Government Announcement to Raise Minimum Wage and Help Secure Economic Justice for Precarious Workers

Toronto, May 30, 2017 – The Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC) welcomes the move by the Wynne government to raise the minimum wage and take steps that should potentially secure economic justice for precarious workers.

ISARC was reacting to the government announcement today by the Premier and Labour Minister Flynn to raise incrementally the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by January 2019, and to table legislation this week. The proposed legislative action by the government came in response to the recommendations made in the *Changing Workplace Review*.

“ISARC has been advocating for economic justice for impoverished Ontarians for over three decades,” says Susan Eagle, Chair of ISARC. “Our interest in the *Changing Workplace Review* (CWR) is motivated by its ability to provide equity for the working poor. Our faith leaders daily see the negative impact of the current limitations in workplace standards” She said that ISARC will review the text of the government’s legislation to determine to what extent it incorporates the positive measures in the CWR Final Recommendations. We look forward to the opportunity of Committee hearings to put forward the enhancements we would like to see.”

ISARC is pleased that the government is making this a priority for passage of legislation. The statement today that the Bill may be tabled before the session ends this week and that public hearings could take place this summer gives us confidence that the legislation will be passed before the end of 2017. We are pleased that beginning in January 2018 there will be a significant increase in minimum wage as a substantial down payment on the \$15 that will be in place by January 2019. Also, precarious workers will be able to enjoy a measure of improvement in their working lives.

This is a significant time in the religious calendars of many faith communities in Ontario. We continue to pray that our elected representatives will be guided by the positive version of the golden rule that what we want for ourselves we should grant to our neighbours.

Adopting the positive recommendations from the CWR as well as enhancements announced by the Premier and Minister Flynn will make a major contribution toward improving social and economic conditions for everyone in Ontario.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS, CONTACT:

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