

2017 CHESTERMERE LIVING WAGE

The City of Chestermere has supported the calculation of 2017 Living Wage estimates for three reference households.

Although some costs have fallen over the last several years, overall most households are paying more for basic expenses.

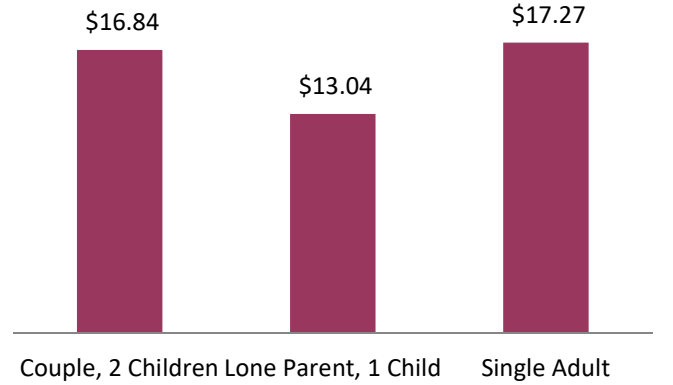
Recent changes to provincial and federal tax rates, benefits and credits have had significant impacts on low income families.

The combined impact of typical annual expenses, taxes and government transfer through benefits and subsidies on Chestermere households is reflected in the 2017 Living Wage estimates.

\$16.84

per adult per hour

is Chestermere's 2017 Living Wage for a family with 2 working parents and 2 children without employer health benefits.



Living Wage tells us about:

The amount of income an individual or family requires to meet their basic needs, to maintain a safe, decent standard of living in their communities and to save for future needs and goals (Vibrant Communities Calgary, 2012).

Living Wage benefits:

Community

- Poverty reduction
- Enhanced community pride
- Stimulation of local spending

Businesses

- Increased productivity
- Improved customer satisfaction
- Decreased staff turnover
- Improved corporate image

Employees

- Improved health
- Better quality of life

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How was the 2017 Living Wage calculated?

The *Canadian Living Wage Framework* (CLWF) developed by Vibrant Communities Canada was used as a guide for Chestermere's 2017 Living Wage calculation.

Calculation Method - Living Wage is the hourly wage rate that allows this formula to balance:

$$\text{Annual Family Expenses} = \text{Employment Income} + \text{Income from Government Transfers} - \text{Taxes}$$

Annual Family Expenses

Budget Exclusions

- ✗ Special dietary needs
- ✗ Hobbies
- ✗ Owning a home
- ✗ Pet ownership
- ✗ Credit card, loan or other debt/interest payments
- ✗ Parking
- ✗ Savings for retirement
- ✗ Alcohol or tobacco costs
- ✗ RRSP, RESP, or RDSP contributions
- ✗ Personal life or disability insurance
- ✗ Costs of caring for a disabled, seriously ill, or elderly family member
- ✗ Remittances to family members living abroad

Annual Family Expenses

This chart shows the annual expenses used in the 2017 calculation.

