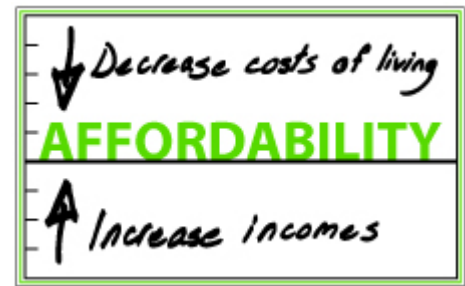




COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
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MEDIA RELEASE

18 April 2011
Victoria, BC

The Affordability Index – more than just the Living Wage

By any measure, BC has one of the highest poverty rates in the country.¹ With a very high cost of living (particularly housing costs), far too many British Columbians find it impossible to make ends meet.

The Affordability Index reflects the real costs of living through the hourly wage required to enjoy an adequate quality of life in our region.

“The living wage calculation used to generate the Affordability Index gives us a concrete measure of how much families need to earn just to get by in the Capital Region,” says Brian Hill, Board President of the Community Social Planning Council. “The calculation also sheds light on the real costs of living here and invites us all, including citizens, employers and policy makers, to work together for practical solutions that reduce costs and increasing incomes. The increase in the costs of living identified by comparing the current index with past years needs to be a call to action for us all.”

In 2011, the wage required to maintain an adequate quality of life in BC’s Capital Region is calculated at \$18.03 per hour, a 4.2% increase from 2010. This calculation assumes two adults working 35 per week each while providing a home for two children.

Details of the affordability crunch facing residents will be discussed at an event “Doing it Better Together” being held at the Burnside Gorge Community Centre on April 28th, where strategies will be developed to reduce and prevent poverty in the Capital region. For more information or interview, please contact:

Rupert Downing, Executive Director
250-383-6166 ext 107
Rupert@communitycouncil.ca

Links:

<http://www.communitycouncil.ca/index.html>
<http://livingwageforfamilies.ca/>

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Doing it Better Together: Collaborating to reduce and prevent poverty

An engaging, informative and interactive event to

- explore local models of partnership and collaboration to reduce and prevent poverty
- map who’s doing what to address poverty in our community create opportunities
- ramp up existing work and be a catalyst for new partnerships and initiatives

Please RSVP by April 15, 2011
info@communitycouncil.ca

¹ Statistics Canada 2006