

COMMUNITY NEWS

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR

# Town ups minimum wage

## Twenty-five per cent increase for casual employees

By DAVID NEWELL  
Advertiser

It is not a step most employers would take without being asked, but one town council looks at it as showing leadership and taking care of their workers.

The council in Grand Falls-Windsor decided unanimously to increase the minimum wage paid to its casual workers from approximately \$8 an hour to just over \$10 an hour.

Coun. Darren Finn was pleased with the decision, saying there have been employ-

ees working for 15 years as casual employees who deserved the wage increase. He is especially happy that employees whose jobs with the town are their sole source of income will make a little more.

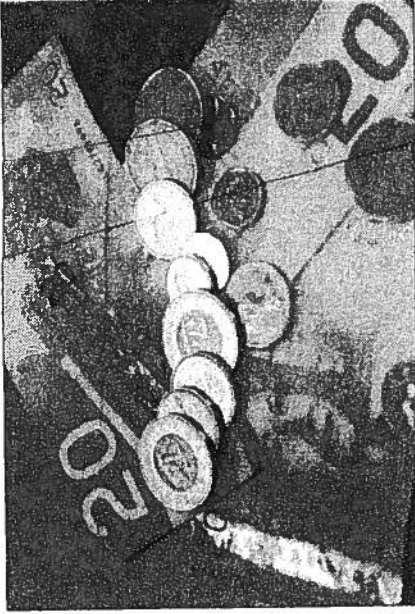
"It is my opinion the minimum wage is below the poverty rate for someone who has this as their main source of income," he said. "It works fine for people who are couples and it is supplementing the family income.

"Earlier this year, Shawn Skinner, provincial minister of human resources, labour and employment, and repre-

sentatives from his department conducted consultations around minimum wage across Newfoundland and Labrador. The government has committed to raising the provincial minimum to \$10 an hour by 2010.

Coun. Finn said although the results of those consultations have not yet been released, he believes the increase in Grand Falls-Windsor shows the vision of the town.

"As a council we have \$10



There is significantly more money on the table for casual employees of the town of Grand Falls-Windsor as council agreed unanimously to raise their wages last week.

David Newell photo

by 2008 and I think it shows leadership," he said. "I hope we would be used as an example of where the province needs to go."

As of 2006, approximately 14,200 people were earning minimum wage in this province, with 66 per cent of that number being female and 48 per cent under the age of 24 years old.