

On Oct 1, 2018, at 11:21 AM, michael prestie <mike.prestie@icloud.com> wrote:

I am sending this to the 3 of you for comment but I would like to discuss this at fall council. If you agree to at least discuss this proposal at fall council, place it in the reference materials. With the hot topic of universal pharmacare and dentistry as a logical next step if it goes through, I am presenting a different direction.

Other provinces have raised their minimum wage recently and some will raise it in the near future. Sask has a schedule that minimum wage increases are decided in June each year.

My idea is to petition the provincial government for a law/bylaw that would make extended health benefits mandatory by employers.

The math behind it is the monthly cost is in the range of \$300 for a family, \$200 for a couple, or \$100 for a solo user.

If an employee works full time, 160 hrs per month, the cost for each range is \$1.875,\$1.25,\$.625 per hour worked.

So how do we make this at least partially agreeable to employers? We ask the government to not raise the minimum wage to \$14.00 per hour like Ontario but when an increase comes, set aside some room, (\$1.00/ hr) for the employers to pay for the benefit plan and the remainder would go to the employee.

My example is a \$13.00 minimum wage with \$1.00 remaining with employers to provide benefits to their employees to create an effective wage of \$14.00.

This would increase the level of health of the population as costs would be significantly less prohibitive, not just for dental but pharmacy, chiropractic, Physiotherapy, massage therapy, optometry etc.

A side benefit would be less users of government plans. NIHB clients could have more options as treatment possibilities are limited in their plan. Family income plan could be eliminated. Ss coverage would have less to pay for because clients ending up in their plan would have had regular care provided while employed.

This could open up some funds to allow the government to set up a seniors benefit plan as they are not in the workforce and have a higher usage in several of the areas.

We can't approach the government alone as it would seem self-serving but there are a variety of groups we could team up with in our petition.

Saskatchewan association of optometrists
Saskatchewan college of podiatrists
Pharmacy association of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan medical association
Chiropractic association of Saskatchewan
Massage therapist association of Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Physiotherapy association

Poverty free Saskatchewan
Canada without poverty.

CDSS
SDAA
SDHA
SDTA

There may be other groups to add to the list but these are a decent starting point.
This is a link to the minimum wages across Canada as well as a screen shot of the current wages.
<https://www.retailcouncil.org/quickfacts/minimum-wage-by-province>

This is a sample plan I received from a local benefit retailer in Moose Jaw.
It has a description of everything that is included as well as a screen shot of the costs associated.

There are 2 columns in the above chart I want considered. The 'E.H.C.' and the 'Dental' columns have the coverages I am referring to.

So this is the idea. The ask of the CDSS council is are you interested in getting the above mentioned groups and associations together to petition the government on this topic?

I obviously am interested and would hope to be involved but I believe this needs to come from the CDSS council.

Mike Prestie

