



NEWS RELEASE  
AUGUST 12, 2009

## **Non-Profits in Calgary Commit to Pay a Living Wage**

**Calgary, Alberta** – Vibrant Communities Calgary recognizes several non-profit organizations that pledge to pay a Living Wage. Join us for the awards ceremony at the Salvation Army Chapel, 420 - 9th Avenue SE, Calgary on August 13, 2009 between 11:30am and 12:30pm.

As a Calgary Living Wage Leaders, the **Salvation Army Centre for Hope, Momentum, Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids, The Calgary Workers' Resource Centre, Progressive Alternatives Society, and Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary** will commit to pay a Living Wage of \$12.25 per hour with benefits or \$13.50 without benefits to all employees (full-time, part-time, casual), as well as contracted employees who are working with the organizations for two days or more per week.

Paying a Living Wage is about ensuring hardworking Calgarians have the right to afford their basic needs. The current recession has overburdened the human services sector in Calgary and so now it is more important than ever to ensure that those still employed are paid enough to support themselves.

"We moved to a living wage policy 4 years ago because we wanted to ensure that our 7 staff members would never be in a financial position that required that they access the services that they were delivering", says Bob McInnis, Executive Director of Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids..

By adopting a Living Wage policy, these organizations have committed to not employ workers at poverty-level wages or sub-contract with employers who pay poverty-level wages.

"We need to provide a hardworking folks with the means to survive and to succeed, and Living Wage is one way we can do that. We commend these human service organizations for ensuring that they don't contribute to putting further stress on the sector, but rather become part of the solution," explains Dan Meades, Director of Vibrant Community's Calgary.

**About Vibrant Communities Calgary:** Vibrant Communities Calgary is an organization of community volunteers committed to building a city life where all Calgarians fully participate in their communities. Recognizing poverty as a barrier to community participation, Vibrant Calgary develops and supports creative and innovative strategies to reduce poverty in Calgary.

Vibrant Calgary both leads and collaborates, knowing that a combined diversity of experience and expertise will achieve results that cannot be achieved individually.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Dan Meades**, Director, Vibrant Communities Calgary

403.283.2122

[www.vibrantcalgary.com](http://www.vibrantcalgary.com)