

News Release
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Wage, Gender and Employment Impacts of the Recession in Calgary

According to current Statistics Canada data purchased by Vibrant Communities Calgary, the current economic slowdown is having a significant impact on the structure of employment in Calgary.

One of the many changes is the significant job loss among male workers. Through the last six-months of 2008 to the first six-months of 2009, there has been a 3,700 net increase in employment of women over the age of 20, which is contrast to the overwhelming net loss of 16,500 men over the age of 20.

From an economic perspective this is problematic because women earn less than men – not necessarily because they are women, but because women continue to be over represented in lower paying jobs. The average median hourly earnings during the first six-months of 2009 was \$26 for men over the age of 20, versus \$20.67 for women over the age of 20.

“We need to pay attention to gender inequality. The persistence of the gendered wage gap in Calgary detrimentally affects us all, as many families increasingly rely on women’s wages to makes ends meet,’ says Sarah Newman, Vibrant Communities Calgary’s Project Coordinator. “Furthermore, individuals and families seeking financial and material support are challenged by an overburdened nonprofit and government service sector.”

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