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Two-Tiered Minimum Wage Is Not Acceptable

Students just entering the workforce are the group that seems to be potentially targeted for this unjust and highly discriminatory provision of the Employment Standards Act. If our Island economy is going to properly start the integration of young workers into the workforce both government and employers have to stop looking at our young workers as a cheap labour force. They should begin by ensuring that a student's first work experience provides them with as much training and exposure to the workplace as possible so that they can get the best start on their working lives. A two-tiered system would only allow the low wage earners to be hired first.

Too many Island businesses look at the proper training of employees in terms of the short term expense it creates, rather than looking at the major impact it will have in creating a skilled workforce. A skilled work force is what these businesses need to provide for their own future financial success. Why are the same employers looking for the cheapest labour every year? Our government spends thousands each year for this recruitment to keep a cheap labour force for greedy employers while good employers pay a decent wage and are not always recruiting with government money.

Minimum wage jobs are meant to be starter jobs that require lower skills and less experience so it makes very little sense to set a lower wage for anyone working at a minimum wage job especially when discriminatory measures such as age or experience are used.

Most students in minimum wage jobs are performing work of equal value to that of more experienced workers and they do not deserve to be treated as second class citizens especially with the high cost of university tuition.

We hope that there will be only one minimum wage and that all workers will be treated equally.

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