2007-184: WHEREAS on October 17, 2006, a private members bill (Bill 150) requesting the Ontario minimum wage be increased to $10.00/hour was tabled in the Ontario Legislature;

AND WHEREAS Ontario has 15% of its population living below the poverty level;

AND WHEREAS Statistics Canada reports that close to 40% of people in Sudbury work in private service jobs, and that at least 25% of all jobs in Sudbury are low-wage;

AND WHEREAS Citizens in the City of Greater Sudbury would be amongst the main beneficiaries if Bill 150 is enacted as the number of people living below the poverty level would be reduced if the minimum wage was increased to $10.00 and more residents could spend more in local businesses boosting the local economy;

AND WHEREAS because small businesses must already competitively pay their employees to retain them, a $10.00/hour minimum wage would not adversely affect the small business sector;

AND WHEREAS many local organizations are supporting Bill 150, including the Sudbury and District Labour Council, The Social Planning Council of Sudbury, and The Sudbury Action Centre for Youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury, in the spirit of social justice and in recognition of government's basic role to protect those citizens in our society who are most vulnerable and in need, hereby endorses provincial Bill 150 and petitions Queen's Park to enact Bill 150. The Bill would raise the minimum wage to $10.00/hour immediately and not by 2010 as outlined in the spring 2007 Ontario budget;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this motion be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, and to Sudbury area Members of Provincial parliament;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for distribution and support from all municipalities in Ontario.

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