

Calgary City Council voted "No"

On April 7th, 2009, Calgary City Council voted "no" to paying its staff a Living Wage.

The vote was lost eight votes to six votes, with supportive aldermen disappointed. "People don't really want to be helped, people want to look after themselves," said Alderman Hawkesworth, a Living Wage supporter. Alderman Ceci, also in favour of the proposed Living Wage policy, said a Living Wage is an economic stimulus that benefits all Calgarians, as low income earners spend their pay cheques locally.

Alderman Farrell explained that paying a Living Wage is about respecting one's employees and Alderman Pincott reminded Council that the policy is a means of investing in Calgarians. As a result of Council's decision, 674 City of Calgary staff and contractors will continue to be paid a wage that does not allow them to meet their basic needs.

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