

Ontario minimum wage since 1965

Despite extended periods with no increase, the minimum wage in Ontario has kept pace with inflation.

1965-2006

Minimum wage: Up 800%
MPPs salaries: Up 1,285%

1995

Ontario has Canada's highest minimum wage when the Conservatives freeze the base wage at \$6.85 an hour.

2003

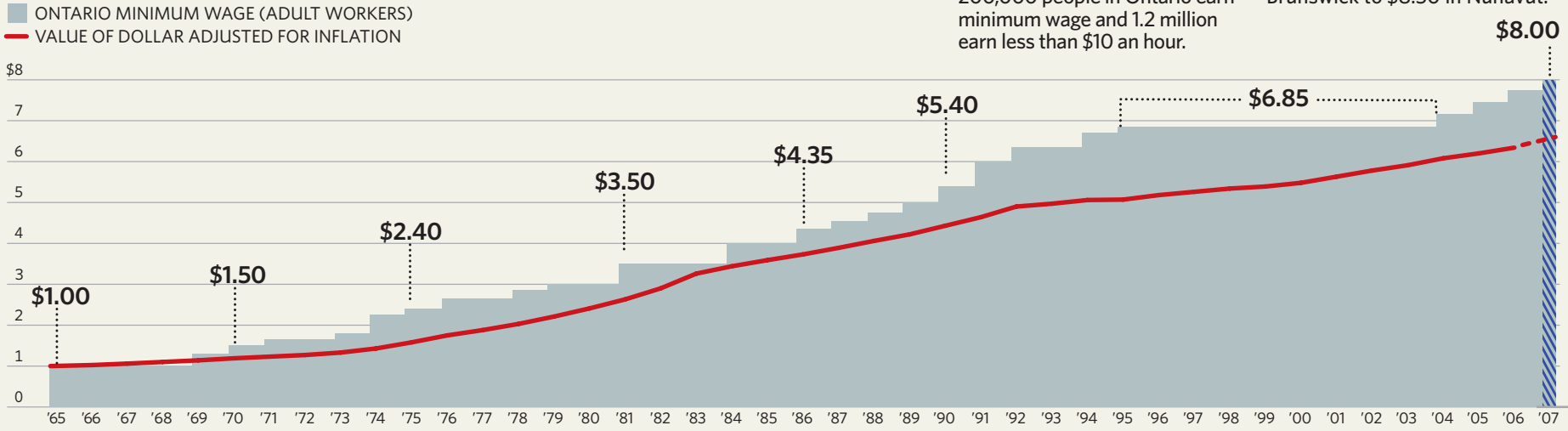
When they come to power, the Liberals lift the 8-year freeze on Ontario's minimum wage.

Oct. 2006

New Democrat Cheri DiNovo introduces private member's bill to raise Ontario's minimum wage to \$10 an hour. About 200,000 people in Ontario earn minimum wage and 1.2 million earn less than \$10 an hour.

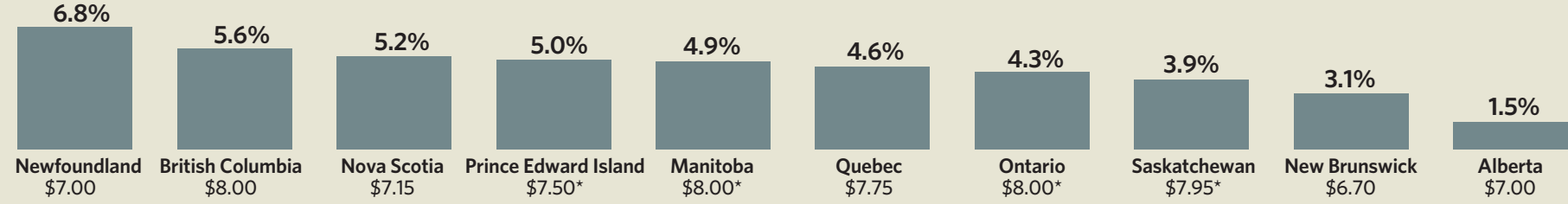
Feb. 2007

Ontario's minimum wage will be raised to \$8.00. Minimum wage varies across the country from \$6.70 an hour in New Brunswick to \$8.50 in Nunavut.



Canadians working for minimum wage

Percentage of working population earning minimum wage in 2005, by province



SOURCES: Human Resources and Development Canada, U.S. Department of Labor, Statistics Canada, Star files. COMPILED BY Kathleen Power, Deborah Wingate and Nelia Raposo, Toronto Star Library

* effective later this year

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