

# CFIB concerned about proposed new labour laws

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The government needs to release a cost-benefit analysis on the proposed minimum wage increase. I would challenge them to demonstrate how the new labour law changes they're proposing will create new jobs and strengthen the economy," said Arnott.

Provincial director for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), Julie Kwiecinski, echoed similar concerns on behalf of her membership while speaking to the Star.

Small businesses, who don't share the larger profit margins of big business, will be forced to make difficult choices, including cutting hours and jobs, said Kwiecinski. We are shocked and appalled that the government is broadsiding small business owners with a 32-per-cent increase in the minimum wage within only one-and-a-half years.

Even provincial New Democratic Party

leader, Andrea Horwath, who has long advocated for a \$15 minimum wage, questioned whether the government's motives were more for their own political fortunes.

We previously supported tying minimum wage to inflation, which is fair, planned and predictable, said the party. An increased minimum wage doesn't help if you don't have a job the next day.

For his part, Arnott has some advice for those who may share some of those concerns.

If and when (the Liberals) introduce the legislation, I would encourage all interested employers and employees to review the proposed changes, and participate in the public hearings that will likely be conducted by a standing committee of the legislature in due course. I would also appreciate receiving everyone's views on these important issues.

*With files from The Toronto Star*

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