



OLIVIA CHOW MAYOR

Hon. David Piccini, MPP
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
400 University Ave., 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1T7

December 3, 2024

Dear Minister Piccini,

I know a shared priority for our administrations is ensuring that hardworking Ontarians receive a fair wage for work. In our October 2, 2024 meeting we discussed digital platform-based work and agreed to continue the conversation on how workers in the gig economy, a workforce made up predominantly of newcomers and young people, can make a good living and build a good life in a city like Toronto.

I am writing today to continue this conversation.

Today the City of Toronto released a report which outlines a troubling reality for drivers working for a Private Transportation Company (PTC) face. The median driver hourly wage after expenses is less than \$6, much less than the provincial minimum wage.

I recognize your government's efforts with the passage of Bill 88 and understand regulations are coming into force in July 2025, however we need to do so much more to address the desperate financial situation facing PTC drivers.

While Bill 88 sets the minimum wage for Engaged Time at the current minimum wage, (which is presently \$17.20 per hour), the reality is that most driver's hourly earnings get wiped out by their costs, such as lease/amortization, gas, maintenance expenses, wait times and red tape. Leaving them well below the wage standard your own government has set.

Earlier this year, we heard stories of some drivers on ride-hailing apps making as little as [\\$6.37 to \\$10.60 US per hour after estimated operating expenses](#) – not including tips. That's not a living wage, and in the face of a mounting affordability crisis – we can and must do better.

Right now there are a number of regulatory duplications that reach right into a driver's pocket that could be avoided by reducing red tape and taking a more coordinated approach across the province.

/2

While the City of Toronto is a focal point of PTC activity in Ontario, our municipality is not alone in facing challenges associated with regulating a business model that frequently crosses municipal boundaries.

PTC drivers are hurting in our city and across Ontario. We owe it to them as leaders to look for ways to improve their lives. To work together to find solutions that help lift people out of poverty and that reward hard work with good take home pay.

Before Bill 88 comes into force next July, I urge you and your government to amend the regulations and use drivers' net income in order to lift drivers wages to the provincial minimum wage.

I would be pleased to offer my full support to you and your government to advance regulatory changes that enshrine true fairness for these drivers who do so much to keep our province moving.

Let's help raise the earnings for these workers to your provincial standard, together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olivia Chow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto