

## Wages and Costs of Living

Statscan Urban Family Expenditure Survey 1974 gives

1st quintile	2nd	3rd	4th	CPI			
\$	%	%	%	1974	1980mar	\$	
810.7	30.0	22.6	18.3	143.4	248.4	gives	1404 Food
922.3	34.2	28.4	20.8	121.2	194.6	"	1481 Shelter
142.6	5.3	5.8	6.8	118.6	171.1	"	206 Clothing
	<u>69.5</u>	<u>56.8</u>	<u>45.9</u>				<u>3091</u>

2700 = Total current expenditure 1974

ergo,

$\$3091 \div 69.5\% = \$4416.8$  gives total expenditure required for 1st quintile at March 1980 prices. Note this is an annual figure,  $\$4416 \div 12 = \text{c. } \$370/\text{mo.}$  Although %age expenditures on food &c. amount to ones which imply that those in the 1st quintile receive less than the "low income cut-off point", the \$ expenditures quoted are probably in the mid-range of the lowest quintile.

Note also that  $\$1404 \div 12 = \$117/\text{mo}$  for food, less than adequate according to B.C.Min. of Health & Can. Dietary Standards.

Statscan 1977 13-207 Income Distribution in Canada(?) has

"Low income cut-off of family units in an area of residence of 500,000 or above"

1 person \$4446

2 person \$6443

3 person \$8221

These figures were trended up from the 1974 F.E.S. on basis of CPI increases, but N.B. that the definition of the low income cut-off has been revised upwards, so that any family unit spending more than 62% of income, not 70% as previously, on food, shelter, and clothing now fall within the "low-income" definition.

Trending up these figures on basis of CPI increases to March 1980 gives:

$$\left( \frac{204.0 - 160.8}{160.8} + 1 \right) \times \$4446 = \$5640.$$

$\$5640 \div 12 = \$470/\text{mo.}$ , \$3760 over an 8 mo. period.

However Podaluk, J., in Incomes of Canadians (report on the 1961 Census) says that budget, rather than income definitions are "superior" indicators of need. Therefore if we can estimate reasonable figures for cost of living expenses, and we know what proportion of a 'standard' budget these constitute, we can put a good case for whatever salary demand we end up with. It might be noted that with a 62% criterion, a minimum monthly wage, based on a total expenditure of \$363/mo on food and shelter (including expenditure on meals eaten out) would be c. \$730/mo., as opposed to \$695/mo as quoted in an earlier report, using 70% as a criterion.

363/mo food & shelter

230/mo - (from Vancouver Rental Housing Council) rent of  
 a 1-B-R Apt. Rents range on W. side from \$215 to \$274

133/mo - from BC Min Health figures for Victoria



# Rentals Vancouver W. Side

1 bedroom

Average \$ 215 - 274

W. End \$ 215 - 274 - lg no. of apts in W. End

Kits \$ 231 - 240

Granville VGH \$ 255 - 265

Marpole \$ 241 - 300

## Food

from Basic Food Plan Summary Sheet  
published for Vancouver & Victoria quarterly,  
(figures for Vancouver not available after Nov 79) by Nutrition Services (736 2033)  
BC Min Health. Based on Can. Dietary Standard.

"Monthly food costs, the minimum amount of money  
which should be spent on food if nutritional requirements  
as set up by Canadian Dietary Standards are to met"

Basket of 67 foods

	Van Nov 79	Vic Feb 80
Adult Male	93.40	96.32
Child 1-3	48.03	49.88
4-6	57.06	59.25

Feb  
so Vic figs prob approx cost  
of Van. in May?

~~Vancouver~~ Vancouver food costs 94% of Victoria's, but is now May - figures for

Victoria May avail shortly (from Victoria Branch Nutrition Services)

Adult female requires approx 75% of adult male, (I'm just reporting this!!)