

MEDAL OF HONOUR

Lawrence Wong

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance

Nominated by the National Trades Union Congress

In his years of public service, Deputy Prime Minister Wong has been a strong advocate and supporter of workers and tripartism in Singapore.

As Minister for Finance, DPM Wong supported tripartite efforts to improve skills training for workers and businesses. He set aside funds in the Budget for NTUC to work with companies through the Company Training Committees (CTCs). The CTCs ensure that employers focus on re-skilling and upskilling their workers, as they go about their business transformation. He also implemented the Jobs-Skills Integrator initiative, which brings together industry, training and employment facilitation partners, including NTUC, to improve training and job matching for workers.

DPM Wong has championed better wages and employment outcomes for lower-income and vulnerable workers. He introduced the Progressive Wage Credit Scheme to support Progressive Wages, and significantly enhanced the Workfare Income Supplement scheme, including by expanding its coverage to younger workers. More recently, he rolled out initiatives to encourage employers to hire seniors, persons with disabilities and ex-offenders.

As co-Chair of the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on Covid-19, DPM Wong made many key decisions to protect workers and their livelihoods. He successfully guided Singapore through the crisis of a generation, and helped Singapore workers bounce back stronger from the pandemic. In particular, he extended the Jobs Growth Incentive Scheme to support the recovery of the labour market, especially the more vulnerable workers. His continued focus on driving Singapore's economic growth amidst a more challenging external environment also assures workers of good jobs for the future.

Under the Forward Singapore exercise, DPM Wong has highlighted the need to strengthen our society's compact with workers. He has worked with unions to ensure the concerns and aspirations of workers are well represented in the exercise, such as through NTUC's #EveryWorkerMatters Conversation.

As Deputy Secretary-General of the People's Action Party and leader of its 4G team, DPM Wong has placed emphasis on strengthening the PAP-NTUC symbiotic relationship, and putting workers at the centre of everything the PAP does. As the Chairman of Singapore Labour Foundation since 2018, he has played a crucial role in sharpening its focus as a financial steward of the Labour Movement, and in providing continued financial support for NTUC's initiatives. His leadership has enabled NTUC to continue being an effective representative voice for workers and a credible partner of the Government.

DPM Wong has had a long association with the Labour Movement. He has been union advisor to the Union of Power and Gas Employees since 2011, and more recently, the Building Construction And Timber Industries Employees' Union.