



Labour

Travail

CANADA'S PARTICIPATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE

The International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations (UN) specialized agency that promotes social justice and internationally recognized labour rights. The ILO has 183 member states and is the global body responsible for developing international labour standards and supervising their application.

The ILO was founded in 1919 and became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO's unique structure allows workers, employers and governments to participate as partners in shaping policies and programs.

Canada's Participation in the ILO

Canada's involvement in the ILO is in line with our values of fairness, respect for others, free speech and freedom of association.

Among other activities, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's Labour Program:

- represents Canada at the ILO and is a member of the ILO Governing Body;
- develops Canadian positions on ILO matters in consultation with other federal departments, provincial and territorial governments, and Canadian worker and employer organizations;
- provides information to the ILO on Canadian law and practice and ensures that Canada meets its reporting obligations;
- participates in the promotion of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up procedures; and
- supports ILO technical assistance programming related to the elimination of forced and child labour and effective labour administration.

Canada's involvement in the ILO is an extension of our own core values: a commitment to workplaces that are safe, fair and productive.

The Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour

Since 1963, labour ministers of the Americas have been meeting every several years at a specialized conference of the Organization of American States (OAS) to discuss labour issues common to all countries of the hemisphere. The Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (IACML) is the only hemispheric forum where labour ministers address labour and employment issues related to economic integration.

The Conference plays a key role in building the consensus and coordination necessary to deal with labour issues at the hemispheric level. The IACML is also the only forum in the Americas that addresses the labour dimensions of economic integration, and is therefore a key aspect of the Summit of the Americas process.

Labour Program's Role in the IACML

The Labour Program promotes and manages Canada's participation in the IACML on matters such as working conditions, workplace health and safety, labour-management relations, social dialogue and labour standards.

Canada's Leadership

Canada has taken a leadership role in addressing the labour dimensions of globalization in the Americas. Canada served as Chair of the IACML from 2001 to 2003 and was responsible for implementing the Ottawa Plan of Action. Canada encourages smaller economies, business and labour groups to actively participate in and shape Conference events. Canada's leadership of the IACML has contributed to the transformation of the Conference into a vibrant and inclusive regional dialogue on labour issues.

Canada is a key international player when it comes to the advancement of fundamental rights in the workplace.

To find out more, call toll-free 1-800-622-6232 or visit labour.gc.ca.

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