

LABOUR PROGRAM \$1.9 MILLION

The Labour Program's official development assistance (ODA) for fiscal year 2012–2013 totalled \$1,895,000.³¹

The Labour Program negotiates and administers Canada's Labour Cooperation Agreements (LCAs), which are signed alongside free trade agreements. LCAs include commitments to protect internationally recognized core labour rights and to enforce domestic labour laws. LCAs are intended to protect workers' basic rights and improve working conditions and standards of living in the signatory countries. These agreements also ensure fair competition for Canadian industry in a globalized world. Canada's latest generation of LCAs contains mechanisms to receive and investigate complaints and impose penalties, where warranted.

In addition to negotiating and administering LCAs, the Labour Program provides technical assistance to developing countries. This assistance funds capacity-building projects that support the modernization of labour policy and administration. Such projects foster better enforcement of national labour laws and greater respect for internationally recognized core labour standards.

Through its technical assistance program, the Labour Program seeks to strengthen institutions of democratic governance, promote economic growth while respecting workers' rights, and improve the quality of working conditions in partner countries.

In fiscal year 2012–2013, the Labour Program provided a total of \$1,280,000 in ODA through grants to the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the implementation of projects in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jordan, Peru and Vietnam. The promotion of social dialogue, the enhancement of occupational health and safety, and compliance with internationally accepted labour standards are key objectives of these projects.

In addition, the Labour Program provided \$498,000 in ODA to the ILO-affiliated International Institute for Labour Studies to undertake research, develop knowledge of effective approaches to addressing the labour provisions of Free Trade Agreements, and strengthen relationships that foster collaboration, alliances and networks to address trade and labour issues.

The Labour Program also provided \$117,000 to the Université de Montréal to organize the Canada—China Joint Seminar on Labour Dispute Resolution. This seminar sought to strengthen Canada—China labour cooperation and support respect for fundamental labour and human rights, good governance, and the rule of law in China.

³¹ The assistance reported meets the requirements of the *Official Development Assistance Accountability Act* and is consistent with the reporting guidelines for development assistance prepared by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.