

involves a premium paid ultimately by the consumer— for what products will people pay extra? What is the experience with environmental and organic labels? What kind of financial support is needed to develop codes and fair trade labelling systems—should governments be expected to contribute?

- What is the relation of the labelling system to the dominant economy; does it / should it support an alternative system? (e.g. fair trade labels provide support to cooperatives, and the Forest Stewardship Council supports an alternative way of managing forests).

Preparation of a report on key issues with respect to codes of conduct and social labelling systems:

The Learning Circle agreed that staff for the project would prepare a report on issues with respect to codes and labels, without attempting to represent any consensus position of the Learning Circle. Following the final meeting of the project in March 1998, there were developments which indicated that governmental / corporate/ NGO / union agreement may be reached to establish a national task force on sweatshop and child labour, with a major component of its work being the consideration of the role of codes of conduct and labels in the production of retail goods.

Because of this development, our report has been written with the needs of such a task force in mind. Our report, "Review of Codes of Conduct and Labels Relevant for a Proposed Canadian Task Force on Sweatshop and Child Labour," is enclosed. To increase the possibility that it might be of ongoing use to a task force and to others, we went to considerable effort to produce not only the body of the report, but also the code documents, in electronic form. We envisage that we might be asked to repackage the report in binders, so that sections of the report can be updated, and information on new developments added.

The Learning Circle also agreed that in the second year of the project, the group would work together on educational projects with respect to labels and codes, and on the development of a broader forum (including the private sector and government) for discussion. If a national task force is established, one possibility is that the Learning Circle will function as a reference group for civil society participants.