After discussing draft revisions to the convention at the 1988 meeting, and studying the proposed new convention prior to the 1989 meeting, the new convention was adopted (as ILO Convention 169) at the ILO meeting held in Geneva in June 1989. The Canadian Government was an active participant at the 1989 meeting of the ILO, as were a number of Canadian indigenous NGOs.

Following the approval of the new Convention 169, the Canadian government, under the auspices of Labor Canada, are consulting to determine the compatibility of federal and provincial legislation with the new convention.