

policy, and in particular to promote Canadian and multilateral trade and investment practices that protect internationally agreed labour rights.

Current capacity and activities

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) works on several fronts to promote human and trade union rights internationally. The major focus at present is work for the inclusion of a social clause guaranteeing human and labour rights in international trade agreements, including the World Trade Organization, the NAFTA, and in the current efforts to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas. The CLC cooperates with other organizations of Canadian civil society in this work.

The President and Vice Presidents of the CLC play leadership roles in several international bodies, including the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the Human and Trade Union Rights Committee of the OECD, and the ILO. Through this network of international affiliations the CLC is constantly involved in a host of ad hoc issues involving violations of human and trade union rights in other countries, for example in China, Burma, Indonesia, Nigeria, Eastern Europe, Mexico, and Colombia. This work normally involves advocacy of appropriate action by the Canadian government to protect human and labour rights.

The CLC's policy research and advocacy capacity is provided by the staff of its International Affairs Department, which includes a full-time NAFTA Desk, as well as by the staff of the Social and Economic Policy Department which does in-depth research and analysis, about 20% of which is devoted to international issues. The CLC publishes a wide variety of research documents, educational materials, and regular newsletters.

A number of church-based groups focus on human rights, including the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA), the Inter-Church Committee on Africa (ICCAF), the Canada Asia Working Group (CAWG), and the Task Force on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility. The TCCR has worked to hold Canadian corporations accountable for the effects of their presence in countries where human rights are violated. It communicates and meets directly with the corporations involved, in some cases using the *Bench Marks* standards as a basis for dialogue on company practices and responsibilities (see details on *Bench Marks* under Corporate Responsibility). Worthy of special note has been its work with Shell Canada and Shell International over their role in Nigeria. The international pressure on Shell International has led it to revise its statement of