The North American Agreements

on Labour and Environmental Cooperation

Negotiated and implemented in parallel to the NAFTA, the North American Agreements on Labour and Environmental Cooperation were designed to facilitate greater cooperation between the partner countries in those areas and to promote the effective enforcement of each country's laws and regulations.

Labour

"The North American Agreement on Labour Cooperation underlines the Government of Canada's belief that trade arrangements must go hand in hand with social development and improved living standards. It also provides a framework for Canada, the United States and Mexico to work together to cooperate on the promotion and protection of key labour principles in the areas of industrial relations, employment standards and occupational safety and health."

The Honourable Claudette Bradshaw
Minister of Labour

The Commission for Labour Cooperation was created in 1994 by the North American Agreement on Labour Cooperation (NAALC) to promote cooperation on labour matters between NAFTA members and the effective enforcement of domestic labour law. The Commission consists of a Council of Ministers (comprising the labour ministers from each country) and a Secretariat, located in Dallas, Texas. The Commission website is located at (www.naalc.org).

The Secretariat provides administrative, technical and operational support to the Council and is charged with the implementation of an annual work program. National Administrative Offices (NAOs), located in the departments responsible for labour in each of the three countries, serve as domestic implementation points for the Agreement. The current annual work program for the NAALC focuses on occupational safety and health, employment and job training, labour law and workers' rights and productivity.

The Ministerial Council last met in Charlottetown in October 1998. Ministers completed a comprehensive examination of the operation and effectiveness of the NAALC after four years of implementation. Conclusions of