

HOW THE AGREEMENT WORKS

The Commission for Labour Co-operation

The Commission for Labour Co-operation will comprise a ministerial Council and a Secretariat. The Commission will be assisted by a National Administrative Office (NAO) in each country.

- The Council, comprising cabinet-level representatives from each country, will direct the implementation of the Agreement.
- The Secretariat, directed by the Council and located in the United States, will prepare regular background and studies, carry out the co-operative work program and support any working groups or committees set up by the Council.
- The National Administrative Offices (NAOs) in each country will compile and transmit information to the Secretariat and receive and register public communications on a full range of issues including concerns relating to the enforcement of labour laws. (In Canada, the NAO will be supported by a labour-business advisory committee and Canadian participation on the Council will be supported by a federal-provincial committee.)
- In addition, the NAOs will respond to:
 - public requests for information, and
 - concerns about the enforcement of labour laws.

The NAOs in collaboration with the Secretariat will:

- focus attention on and carry out developmental analysis of labour laws, regulations, and administrative procedures, as well as employment rates, wages, labour productivity and human resource development; and
- facilitate co-operative activities on a wide range of labour issues.

Finding Solutions

- Government-to-government co-operative consultations will be held at several stages to resolve problems concerning the effective enforcement of labour laws by seeking constructive and practical solutions.
- Ministers would consult on issues only after factual consultations at the officials' level (NAOs), and they would make every attempt to arrive at a mutually-satisfactory resolution of any problem.