

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

of

### **The North American Agreement on Labour Co-operation**

#### **CANADA'S OBJECTIVES MET**

##### **The Agreement:**

- carries forward the commitment of the Preamble to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA):
  - to "improve working conditions and living standards" in all three countries, and
  - to "protect, enhance and enforce basic workers' rights";
- strengthens co-operation on labour issues among the governments and citizens of all three countries;
- ensures that the three partners will work to protect high labour standards; and
- safeguards Canada's ability to set high labour standards of its own.

#### **WHAT IS IN THE AGREEMENT**

- The commitment of each country to its NAFTA partners to enforce its labour laws effectively and consistently; and
- The commitment of the NAFTA partners to co-operate with each other on labour matters and to promote a set of shared labour principles.
- This will be accomplished through:
  - the creation of the Commission for Labour Co-operation;
  - the establishment of a co-operative work program; and
  - co-operative consultations and independent evaluations, and ultimately a dispute resolution process to ensure the obligations of the Agreement are carried out effectively.

#### **BENEFITS FOR CANADA**

- Canadians can raise concerns about practices in the NAFTA countries and have them openly reviewed.
- Workers in Canada will benefit from increased North American attention to labour standards and working conditions.
- The door is open for the provinces to participate fully under the Agreement.
- Canadians retain the right to develop and enforce their own labour standards and laws.
- Canada gains effective recourse if our NAFTA partners fail to enforce their own labour laws.
- The Agreement will foster enhanced co-operation between Ottawa and the provinces on North American labour issues.