

Of the world anti-Communist trades union bodies, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is the stronger. This body has a world membership of roughly fifty-four million members from about seventy-five countries. In the federation are men and women of all religions, faiths and political beliefs, apart from Communism.

The Confederation meets in world session every two years in different national capitals. Delegates to the biennial meetings are selected in each country by the national affiliates. Canadian international unions, with approximately one million members, send eight or nine delegates and advisers to these conferences.

At the biennial world meetings the whole condition of man is reviewed, debated and dealt with by conference decision. World economic conditions, living standards and the state of man's freedom are high on the agenda of discussion. World trading conditions, rearmament, the atomic bomb and the Communist conspiracy and infiltration are also discussed. Between the biennial meetings, the decisions of the Confederation are administered and applied by its officers and the standing executive or an emergency committee. Canada is represented on the executive body and its representatives are held in high regard for their unselfish contributions to the work of the world organization.

Regional Organizations

Below the world level, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is subdivided into regional organizations, whose work is to translate decisions of the world body to the needs of the individual countries coming within their regional jurisdiction. Canada is actively represented on the regional organization covering the Americas.

The work of the regional organizations lies in organization of unorganized workers in countries where such help is needed; the strengthening of weak trades unions; the advocacy of better laws; the establishment of educational facilities to train and educate future leadership of free unions.

In the European regional organization of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions not only is there an active and alert interest in workers' affairs. A continuing attention is also given to the need for European integration and to the administration of the European Coal and Steel Community on which the free unions of Europe are represented.

In addition to the decentralization of the world body into continental or regional organizations, there is a further sub-division of organization into specific trades and crafts. Out of the world organization comes the individual trade or craft organizations which meet regularly and deal with their particular problems. Individual Canadian unions are also members of and active workers in these trade units of the world body.

From this type of organization, opportunities are provided for discussion, decision and work on a world, area and individual trade basis. This process of decentralization and integration enables the world body to give attention to the needs and problems of workers in every country. The pattern of organization translates interest and activity from the world level down through the union centres in each country to the local level.