

did not find Canadian corporations implicated in the exploitation of child labour, although there are many examples of teenage girls working in sweatshops with links to Canada in Latin America and Asia. They continue to monitor this issue with the assistance of the Labour behind the Label Coalition, a monitoring group based in UNITE, a union of Canadian garment and textile unions.

The "Bringing the Convention to Life" project generated educational materials on the rights of children and Canada's commitments under the Convention. The CCRC called upon CIDA to develop and use an assessment process that integrates respect for international children's rights standards into its funding and project and program assessment practices. It did not make much progress with CIDA on this issue while the project was active, but Pueblito Canada and Save the Children Canada are both following up with CIDA on this issue.

The coalition is less active at the moment, now that this project has ended, but children's rights are the focus of much other work, particularly concerning the issue of child labour.

The Canadian labour movement began work to prohibit child labour in Canada over a century ago. Currently the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) works on this issue internationally. It supported the visit of Craig Kiehlburger to India in 1995, at the time of the Team Canada delegation of Canadian premiers and prime minister, to give prominence to the issue of child labour in South Asia. The CLC, Steelworkers, other unions, Pueblito Canada, and other organizations that work on the rights of children, promote the RugMark label that guarantees child labour has not been exploited in manufacturing a product. The CLC also advocates Canadian ratification of the International Labour Organization's Convention #138 that prohibits the use of child labour under the age of 14. It is currently developing a campaign to pressure the toy industry to adopt a code of conduct that respects workers' rights, trade union rights, and health and safety standards. Many of the workers in this industry are girls and young women, some as young as 13, who work in maquilas or free trade zones.

The South Asia Partnership has sponsored a policy forum involving policy planners and decision-makers on the issue of child labour in the subcontinent.

Project Ploughshares is working on the issue of child soldiers. It is currently working with Canadian policy makers on Canada's approach to this issue, urging Canada and other nations to adopt an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, raising the minimum age of