

In recent years, study of the requirements of the ILO conventions and their discussion at federal-provincial meetings has been a stimulus to improvements in labour legislation in various fields.

In the past, Canada obtained helpful advice from the International Labour Office when such matters as conciliation in labour disputes, unemployment insurance, and establishment of employment services were being considered. More recently, Canada has been able to repay this assistance by contributing to the development of the less-industrialized nations. The ILO has used Canadian experts in its technical-assistance program in underdeveloped countries, and has sent trainees from such countries to Canada for study and on-the-job training.

While the Department of External Affairs has the general responsibility for handling Canada's international relations, including its United Nations commitments, the Department of Labour is the official liaison agency between the Canadian Government and the ILO. With the expansion in ILO activities after the Second World War, a special branch of the Department of Labour was established to work in close co-operation with the Department of External Affairs, with other federal departments, with the provincial departments of labour and with employers' and workers' organizations, all of which have an interest in the ILO. In this way, the ILO is kept informed on the progress of industrial and economic conditions in Canada, and the Canadian governments and organizations concerned are kept in touch with developments in the international field. Each year some progress is made toward uniform and higher labour standards in Canada, in line with the International Labour Code, and Canada thus plays its part in furthering the purposes of the ILO.

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