

Between the local and its headquarters union organization a variety of structures may exist, according to the type of union and the industry and occupations which it serves. In the railway unions, for example, joint boards exist for particular lines, and in some of the industrial unions, such as the United Automobile Workers, councils have been established to deal with particular sections of the industry. Some national unions have established subsidiary provincial and district councils to serve the needs of locals on a geographical basis. Some international unions have established Canadian district or regional councils to act on behalf of their Canadian membership as a whole, while others divide their Canadian membership into two or more districts. In some cases, Canadian locals are included in the same district organizations as locals in bordering American states. The tendency, however, is to establish Canada-wide districts having a substantial degree of autonomy.

There are two principal central organizations of labour at the national level, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU).⁽⁵⁾ They co-ordinate the activities of their affiliates and act on behalf of the union movement in relations with governments and with organized workers internationally. Both the CLC and the CNTU hold biennial conventions that are attended by delegates from their affiliates and formulate general policies and elect officers. Their funds are obtained through a *per capita* tax on affiliates. Affiliates of the CLC are located in every province of Canada. They account for about three-quarters of Canadian union membership. Most of them are international unions, which are also affiliated with the AFL-CIO in the United States. The CNTU, whose affiliates operate mainly in the province of Quebec and none of which are international unions, encompasses about one-tenth of total Canadian union membership and about one-third of total union membership in Quebec. The remaining members are in unions not affiliated with either organization.⁽⁶⁾

Both the central national organizations establish local labour councils in the main urban areas, and the CLC has established a provincial federation of labour in each of the provinces. These bodies co-ordinate the activities of the locals of affiliates at the municipal and provincial levels and are financed by a *per capita* tax on affiliates within their jurisdictions.

In matters of political activity, the CLC has a close relation to the New Democratic Party, to which many of its member unions are affiliated. The CNTU has not established ties with any specific political party.

Through the CLC and the CNTU, most Canadian unions are linked with organized workers in other parts of the world. The CLC is a member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which has affiliates in almost 100 countries, and the CNTU is an affiliate of the World Confederation of Labour, comprising labour organizations in more than 70 countries. Some national and international unions are also members of International Trade

(5) A third, the Congrès des syndicats démocratiques, was formed in 1972. It is composed of a number of organizations until recently affiliated with the CNTU.

(6) See Table 2, P. 11.