

year and has supervision over the work of the International Labour Office and the various Conferences and Committees, in addition to framing the budget and approving the agendas of the Conferences and meetings. Canada's representative on the Governing Body is the Deputy Minister of Labour for Canada.

The International Labour Office acts as the permanent secretariat of the ILO and as a world research and information centre and publishing house on all subjects concerned with working and living conditions. In the operational field it assists Member States by furnishing experts on manpower training and technical and other types of assistance. The ILO maintains branch offices in all parts of the world; the Canada Branch is located at 202 Queen Street, Ottawa.

The International Labour Conference is a world assembly for the consideration of labour and social problems. It meets annually and is attended by four delegates from each Member State (two representing the government, one representing the employers and one representing the workers) accompanied by technical advisers. The Conference formulates international standards concerning working and living conditions in the form of Conventions and Recommendations. A Convention, after adoption, must be considered by the competent authorities in each Member State with a view to possible ratification; however, each Member State decides whether or not to ratify any Convention, and only by ratification does it assume the obligation to bring its legislation in that field up to the standard set by the Convention. A Recommendation is less formal: it contains general principles for the guidance of governments in drafting legislation or in issuing administrative orders and is not subject to ratification by the Member States.

There have been 44 Sessions of the International Labour Conference, at which 115 Conventions and 114 Recommendations have been adopted, covering a wide range of subjects such as industrial relations, freedom of association, hours of work, weekly rest, holidays with pay, minimum wages, night work of women and young persons, industrial health and safety, workmen's compensation, conditions of work for seamen, dockers and fishermen, unemployment and health insurance, protection of migrant workers, equal remuneration, discrimination, forced labour, radiation protection, and many other aspects of industrial and social problems. By Jan. 1, 1961, ratifications of Conventions by Member States numbered 2,242.

Canada has ratified 19 ILO Conventions, of which 12 concern maritime and dock labour. In Canada the provincial legislatures are the competent legislative authorities with jurisdiction over the subjects covered by most of the ILO Conventions and Recommendations. The Department of Labour, as the official link with the International Labour Organization, is responsible for forwarding to the ILO annual reports on ratified Conventions as well as periodical reports on many other industrial and social matters. Canada is represented at most of the ILO annual and special meetings, and accounts of the discussions and the decisions are regularly published in the *Labour Gazette*. The Department also keeps the provincial governments and the major employer and worker organizations informed of ILO activities.