

Section 9.—Canada and the International Labour Organization

The Department of Labour is the officially designated liaison between the Government of Canada and the International Labour Organization. The ILO was established in 1919, in association with the League of Nations under the Treaties of Peace, with the object of improving labour and social conditions throughout the world by international negotiations, legislative action and other means. Under an agreement approved by the General Conference of the International Labour Organization and by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946, the Organization became a specialized agency of the United Nations, although it retained its autonomy.

The ILO is an association of 110 Member States, financed by their governments and democratically controlled by representatives of those governments and of their organized employers and workers. It is comprised of three main organs—the Governing Body, the International Labour Conference, and the International Labour Office.

The Governing Body consists of 48 members—24 government representatives, 12 employers' representatives and 12 workers' representatives. Of the government seats, each of the 10 Member States of chief industrial importance (of which Canada is one) holds a permanent place and the other 14 government representatives are elected triennially by the Conference. The worker and employer members are elected by their groups every three years at the same Conference. The Governing Body, which usually meets three times a year, supervises the work of the International Labour Office and co-ordinates the programs of the various Conferences and Committees, in addition to framing the budget and approving the agendas of the Conferences and meetings. Canada's government representative on the Governing Body is the Deputy Minister of Labour for Canada; there are also elected employer and worker representatives from Canada on the Governing Body.

The International Labour Conference is a world assembly for the discussion 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 (which are subject to ratification by the Member States concerned) and Recommendations (which are guides for framing legislation and regulations).

There have been 47 sessions of the International Labour Conference, at which 119 Conventions and 119 Recommendations have been adopted. Canada has ratified 20 of these Conventions, of which 12 concern maritime and dock labour. The Department of Labour is responsible for forwarding to the ILO annual reports on ratified Conventions as well as periodic reports on many other industrial and social matters. Canada is represented at each annual Conference and most of the special meetings, and accounts of the discussions and decisions are regularly published in the *Labour Gazette*.

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

Ten tripartite industrial committees have been established to deal with problems of important world industries. By the holding of regional and special technical conferences, and by technical assistance to aid under-developed countries in such fields as co-operatives, social security, vocational training, productivity techniques and employment service organization, the ILO aids in the development of improved economic and social conditions in these areas. The ILO also administers numerous technical aid projects in developing countries on behalf of the United Nations Special Fund and the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance.