
news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canada's labour ministers work together to help workers and employers succeed in the current economy

LAKE LOUISE, ALBERTA, January 23, 2009—At their annual meeting, Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial labour ministers underscored their commitment to protecting the well-being of workers and employers, while improving working conditions and living standards in Canada.

The meeting, which began on January 21 and concludes today, was co-chaired by the Honourable Rona Ambrose, federal Minister of Labour, and the Honourable Hector Goudreau, Minister of Employment and Immigration for Alberta.

“We all know that these are difficult economic times,” said Minister Ambrose.

“Cooperation among employers, workers and government will help Canadians weather the storm and allow the country to emerge strong and prosperous. Federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for labour are prepared to play an important role in facilitating this cooperation and ensuring that our workplaces stay safe, fair, and productive.”

“While economic issues affect each province and territory in different ways, we share a commitment to dealing with short-term challenges and to creating long-term success,” said Minister Goudreau.

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An important issue addressed at the meeting was the current global economic situation. The labour ministers discussed approaches to effectively respond to the pressures on Canadian workers and the businesses that provide them with jobs. The goal is to ensure that all workers and employers have the appropriate tools to succeed in today's economy.

Ministers also discussed the federal Labour Standards Review and Canada's international labour activities. In addition, the ministers made progress towards implementing the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals by approving an approach to changing their respective regulations. They also shared best practices with regards to work-life balance, the protection of temporary foreign workers and vulnerable/young workers, and improving cooperation with Aboriginal communities.

The labour ministers meet every year to share experiences and promote cooperation amongst the governments. Throughout the year, ongoing work continues through the Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation.

This news release is available in alternative formats upon request.

To view the official photo of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Labour, please visit labour.gc.ca.

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