

## **CEC Bulletin**

(January, 2009)

### **The Work of the IACML Continues**

The Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (“IACML”) continues to be very active in promoting labour cooperation and social development in the Western Hemisphere. In this Bulletin, we report on one IACML event that took place in Panama City in December 2008, and provide information about another event that will be taking place in Quebec City in February 2009.

#### **Hemispheric Workshop on Public Employment Services, Panama City**

On December 10 and 11, 2008, the IACML sponsored the “Hemispheric Workshop on Public Employment Services” in Panama City, Panama. John Craig attended the Workshop as a delegate on behalf of the CEC and CEATAL (the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labour Matters, which represents employers in the Americas). The agenda of the Workshop focused on three themes:

- 1) Decentralizing public employment services to ensure that local needs are met.
- 2) Coordinating public employment services with training and skills development programs.
- 3) Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups (e.g. the disabled) within public employment services.

Presentations were made by CEATAL, COSATE (the parallel organization representing workers in the Americas), 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the World Association of Public Employment Services (“WAPES”).

The Workshop strongly endorsed efforts within the Americas to improve and decentralize public employment services so that unique local needs are addressed. Countries were encouraged to work together through a model of horizontal cooperation to share best practices. Notably, the Workshop endorsed the view, advanced by CEATAL, that all policy decisions related to public employment services should be made through a process of tripartite consultation.

If you would like a copy of any of the materials from the Workshop, including the official document produced by the Workshop entitled “Conclusions and Next Steps” (available in English and Spanish), please feel free to contact John Craig at 416-360-3527 ([jcraig@heenan.ca](mailto:jcraig@heenan.ca)).

### **Hemispheric Workshop on Labour Migration and Labour Market Information Systems, Quebec City, February 24-25, 2009**

The next event on the IACML schedule is the Hemispheric Workshop on Labour Migration and Labour Market Information in Quebec City on February 24 and 25, 2009. This event, sponsored by the Government of Canada, is a follow up to a Workshop held in Ottawa in 2007 on migration issues.

The Agenda for the upcoming Workshop was announced on January 9, 2009 and includes the following objectives for the Workshop:

- To exchange best practices from across the hemisphere on the development of Labour Market Information systems
- To assess the impact of migration on sending and receiving countries in the context of the global economic crisis
- Gain a broader understanding of the dynamic between labour mobility, migration and labour markets by sharing perspectives among employer representatives, worker representatives, national governments, multilateral institutions and academics

The four key topics to be addressed at the Workshop are:

- The global economy and labour markets in the Americas
- Labour Market Information in the Americas
- Labour Market Information in Canada: tools for analysis and forecasting
- The challenges of managing migration and mobility

If you would like to receive more information about the Workshop, please feel free to contact Brian Burkett at 416-360-3529 ([bburkett@heenan.ca](mailto:bburkett@heenan.ca)). As this event is taking place in Canada, all CEC members should consider attending and participating.

### **Background to the IACML**

The IACML is the hemispheric organization responsible for labour cooperation and social development initiatives. Every two years, the Ministers of Labour of the 34 democratic nations in the Americas gather to establish an agenda of projects and activities. The most recent IACML meeting took place in Trinidad and Tobago in September 2007. The next IACML meeting will take place in Argentina in September

2009. The Organization of American States (“OAS”) provides technical support to the IACML and acts as the IACML Secretariat.

Over the past decade, Canada has played a leading role in the IACML. This role has grown over the past three years as a result of the Canadian government realigning the nation’s foreign policy to place a greater emphasis on trade and development within the Americas. Consequently, Canada has committed significant resources to technical cooperation projects conducted under the auspices of the IACML, and is largely responsible for the establishment and funding of the Inter-American Network for Labour Administration (known by its Spanish acronym “RIAL”). The RIAL oversees technical cooperation in labour administration, and is a mechanism for exchanging information and best practices in labour administration. IACML Workshops and Seminars are typically organized by the RIAL.

The IACML operates in a tripartite manner with full participation from representatives of CEATAL and COSATE. The International Labour Organization (“ILO”) has observer status within the ILO, and all other major international socio-economic organizations participate regularly (e.g. the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (“OECD”), the World Health Organization (“WHO”), etc.). The CEC participates in all major IACML events.