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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, on his visit to Canada

Comments by the State*

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. Canada thanks the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, for his report and welcomes the opportunity to provide comments.
2. Canada is committed to upholding human rights at home and abroad. Since 1999, Canada has had a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures mandate holders to conduct country visits. It is Canada's position that engaging in these processes allows for constructive international criticism with the objective of continuously improving the country's human rights record.

II. Human Rights Due Diligence

3. Canada takes a balanced approach to responsible business conduct, which includes preventative measures by businesses (such as increasing the uptake of due diligence by Canadian companies in their operations and in their supply chains), legislation in select areas including forced labour and transparency, and access to non-dispute resolution mechanisms.
4. Consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, access to remedy offers a mechanism for addressing grievances to those who feel they have been adversely affected by the operations of Canadian companies. The Government of Canada has two non-judicial grievance mechanisms: Canada's National Contact Point (NCP) and the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE).
5. The Government of Canada established the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise in 2019 with a mandate to review and report on alleged human rights abuses arising from the operations of Canadian companies abroad in the mining, garment, or oil and gas sectors. The CORE's mandate also includes promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. As Canada marks the fifth anniversary of the CORE this year, Canada recognizes the value in undertaking a review of this office. As announced in January 2024 through the [Government Response to the Tenth Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade](#), a review of the Office of the CORE is underway. Findings of the review will help inform the future direction of the CORE.
6. Since 2000, Canada's NCP has facilitated constructive dialogue and positive outcomes in response to requests for review regarding implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. Canada's NCP is transparent about its work. The outcomes of specific cases addressed by Canada's NCP are described in final, and follow-up statements published on the NCP's website. The NCP began publishing its initial assessments of cases in 2022. The NCP also issues an annual report on its activities. The Special Rapporteur did not provide specific information to the NCP regarding the claim that the NCP has "sometimes failed to protect the anonymity of complainants" (paragraph 18). The NCP's current case-handling procedures allow for the anonymous filing of complaints via a third party in certain circumstances (i.e., where there are potential risks of reprisal to a complainant).
7. Canada has adopted legislation addressing forced labour. Further to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, amendments to the Customs Tariff took effect on July 1, 2020, and prohibit the import of goods mined, manufactured or produced wholly or in part by forced or compulsory labour. Since the import ban has been in place, the Government of Canada has been gaining experience in applying this measure. A full range of enforcement activities is being undertaken. In 2021, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) initiated its first application of the measure and detained a shipment, which was later released following an internal recourse process. Between mid-2023 and early 2024, the CBSA performed multiple enforcement actions on goods at high risk of being made by forced

labour. These actions have led to multiple shipments¹ being intercepted with several of those subsequently being exported out of Canada.

8. On January 1, 2024, the *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act* (hereinafter “Supply Chains Act”) came into force. The Supply Chains Act aims to increase industry awareness and transparency about forced labour and child labour by compelling certain entities and government institutions to examine their supply chains and publicly report on what they are doing to prevent and reduce these risks. Reports must be submitted to the Minister of Public Safety by May 31 each year. A summary of the information received will be delivered in an annual report to Parliament by the Minister of Public Safety.

9. Building on the transparency and awareness-building measures introduced through the Supply Chains Act, the Government committed in Budget 2023 and Budget 2024 to introduce government led due diligence legislation. Whereas the Supply Chains Act requires entities to report on forced labour and child labour in their supply chains, government legislation would require entities to undertake due diligence in their supply chains.

III. Migrant Workers

10. The Government of Canada has two federal programs that support the entry of temporary foreign labour in Canada: the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) and the International Mobility Program (IMP).

11. The TFWP is designed to be responsive to changes in the labour market by enabling Canadian employers to fill labour skills shortages on a temporary basis when Canadians and permanent residents are not available. The TFWP is a complex, multi-jurisdictional program. While regulated by the federal government through the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations* (IRPR), provinces and territories are responsible for enacting laws regarding most employers of temporary foreign workers. This includes laws that regulate housing, employment and the recruitment of foreign workers.

12. Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) all play a role in administering the program federally, and work in close partnership with provincial and territorial governments to monitor employer compliance with the TFWP’s requirements and share information that has impacts on the integrity of the program.

13. The IMP operates under the authority of the IRPA and is solely administered by IRCC. It issues work permits with labour market impact assessment exemptions to support broader economic, social and cultural goals, and when there are reciprocal benefits for Canadians abroad.

14. The Government of Canada takes its responsibility to protect the health and safety of temporary foreign workers seriously. While in Canada, temporary foreign workers have the same rights and protections under federal, provincial and territorial employment standards as Canadians and permanent residents. Mistreatment or abuse of temporary foreign workers – or any worker – is always unacceptable and is not tolerated.

15. In recent years, the Government of Canada has taken significant, concrete steps to better support temporary foreign workers. The following paragraphs demonstrate some of the initiatives that Canada has in place, which help mitigate issues described in the report by the Special Rapporteur.

16. **With respect to work permits:** Work permits issued to temporary foreign workers may be open or employer-specific. Open work permits allow for mobility between

¹ Shipment refers to the process of transporting goods, commodities, or cargo from one location to another. This can occur through various modes of transportation including land (trucks, trains), sea (ships), or air (planes). Typically, a shipment can include any quantity of goods, packaged and prepared for transport, ranging from small parcels to large scale commercial freight.

employers, while employer-specific work permits address specific, labour market needs. Workers under the IMP can be issued either an open or an employer-specific work permit depending on the Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) exemption eligibility or criteria, whereas workers under the TFWP are issued an employer-specific work permit.

17. With respect to the TFWP, the issuance of an employer-specific work permit is linked to program requirements that employers must submit a LMIA prior to being granted permission to hire foreign labour. This type of work permit helps ensure that the program is being used to fill a specific temporary labour market need. It also allows the program to know, for integrity and labour protection purposes, which employers are employing foreign workers and where at any given time.

18. The LMIA is an important tool that not only serves to protect the Canadian labour market (i.e., ensuring that Canadians continue to be considered first for employment and that employers can demonstrate a genuine labour market need), but also acts as the first safeguard for worker protections. It reinforces program requirements related to working conditions, employment standards, and employer obligations to ensure that workers are protected while in Canada.

19. Through the LMIA, Service Canada Officers assess the legitimacy of the employer and their job offer, and verify whether the employer has adhered to program requirements in the past. This assessment ensures that program requirements for wages and working conditions will be met. Through this assessment, employer compliance with provincial or territorial employment laws is also verified.

20. Temporary foreign workers can use the Government of Canada Job Bank, which helps workers connect with employers through a trusted source. Should a temporary foreign worker with an employer-specific work permit find work with another employer in Canada, IRCC's Changing Employers Public Policy allows temporary foreign workers already in Canada who are changing jobs or employers, and who have secured a job offer under the terms of either the TFWP or the IMP, to quickly begin work with a new employer or in a new occupation in advance of a final decision on their work permit application. Eligible workers can obtain authorization to work for a new employer within 10-15 days. The Changing Employers Public Policy also enables temporary foreign workers to change employers without incurring any costs. Workers with open-work permits can change employers anytime.

21. Employers hiring under the TFWP's low-wage and agricultural streams have additional requirements, including the need to ensure access to adequate, affordable accommodations and to provide private health insurance during the period the temporary foreign worker is not covered by provincial or territorial insurance.

22. Furthermore, important regulatory amendments came into force in September 2022 that prohibit employers from charging recruitment fees and holds employers accountable for third parties in this regard.

23. Temporary foreign workers, like Canadians, have the right to leave their employer if they are unhappy with their working conditions or if there has been a violation of their rights. A temporary foreign worker would not be subject to removal from Canada for the reason that they left their current employer. A temporary foreign worker already in Canada can change employers under the Changing Employers Public Policy without incurring costs. This measure ensures workers can begin working with their new employer while their work permit is being processed.

24. IRCC introduced the Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers (OWP-V) in June 2019, allowing holders of employer-specific work permits to leave situations where they are experiencing abuse or at risk of experiencing abuse in the context of their employment in Canada by securing an open work permit, typically issued for the period of one year. This authorizes them to transition to a new job and allows them to maintain their immigration status in Canada.

25. The OWP-V is a tool and was designed to address situations of workplace abuse by providing sufficient time to workers to leave situations of abuse, find a new job, and apply for a new work permit should they wish.

26. This permit seeks to mitigate some of the barriers experienced by migrant workers in reporting abuse. A foreign worker with a valid employer-specific work permit or who has maintained status on such a permit (i.e., they applied to extend their permit before it expired) may apply for this open work permit, which would allow them to exit abusive situations and work for a new employer in Canada. An applicant does not need to remain in an abusive situation to apply for the OWP-V. All approved OWP-V applications trigger an inspection for the employer.

27. **With respect to housing requirements under the TFWP's low-wage and primary agricultural streams:** The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of safe accommodations to protect the health and safety of workers, and remains committed to continuing to work with provinces and territories and other stakeholders in this regard.

28. Employers must disclose in their LMIA application details about the housing provided. Employers must also provide proof that accommodations have been inspected by a Housing Inspection Report. This inspection must be conducted by an appropriate provincial, territorial or municipal authority, or an authorized private inspector with the necessary certifications.

29. Of note, temporary foreign workers are not required to stay in employer-provided housing if they do not wish to do so. The submission of an attestation that the temporary foreign worker has chosen their own housing, however, does not exempt the employer from ensuring that housing remains available from the date of arrival to the date of departure. The approved Housing Inspection Report must ensure enough space for all temporary foreign workers listed on the LMIA, whether they reside in the accommodation or not.

30. Inspections are used to monitor employer compliance, including accommodations, with TFWP requirements. If issues are observed or uncovered during an inspection, ESDC will inform relevant provincial, territorial and municipal authorities. If non-compliance is confirmed, the employer will be subject to significant consequences including Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) and/or bans from the program.

31. While the Government of Canada cannot unilaterally set or amend housing standards, ESDC works very closely with its provincial and territorial partners to improve living conditions and other worker protections for temporary foreign workers.

32. **With respect to oversight:** Inspections are used to ensure employer compliance. Under the TFWP, employers must demonstrate compliance with up to 28 regulatory conditions. For the IMP, employers are subject to 17 regulatory conditions. These conditions include ensuring that the employer is actively engaged in the business that the offer of employment was made, that the employer is compliant with relevant jurisdictional laws that regulate the employment or recruitment of employees in the province or territory of work, and that they are making reasonable efforts to provide a workplace that is free of abuse. Inspections can be announced or unannounced and can be conducted in-person and virtually.

33. Employers who are found non-compliant face a range of consequences, which can include penalties up to CAD \$1M and a ban from hiring temporary foreign workers, whether through the TFWP or the IMP. Non-compliant employers are also added to a public facing website.

34. The Government of Canada is continuously working to improve worker protection measures, including its compliance regime. With respect to the TFWP, efforts have had direct results in improving the quality, timeliness, and reach of employer inspections, resulting in a 30% increase in fines issued in 2023-2024, when compared to the previous fiscal year. This work is ongoing.

35. **With respect to awareness raising and support services:** Action has been taken by the Government of Canada to promote awareness by temporary foreign workers of their rights.

36. The TFWP published a pamphlet titled "Your Rights are Protected"² outlining the rights that temporary foreign workers have under the program, including requirements that

² [Temporary foreign workers: Your rights are protected - Canada.ca.](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visas-study-permits/temporary-foreign-workers-your-rights-are-protected.html)

employers provide them with an employment agreement, as well as access to healthcare services and a workplace free from abuse. This pamphlet is available in nine languages. As part of the September 2022 regulatory amendments, it is now mandatory for employers to provide this information to temporary foreign workers on or before the first day of work, and to make this information available to the temporary foreign worker throughout their period of employment.

37. Service Canada maintains a confidential tip line and online reporting tool, which permits temporary foreign workers and other parties to anonymously report situations of potential wrongdoing. All allegations are reviewed by Service Canada, and appropriate action is taken. If criminal activity is suspected, the information is forwarded to appropriate law enforcement agencies. The tipline is available 24/7, with access to live agents offering services in over 200 languages from Monday to Friday (6:30 to 8 pm EST).

38. Moreover, the Migrant Worker Support Program (MWSP) supports the provision of migrant worker-centric programs and services specifically targeted at helping temporary foreign workers better understand and exercise their rights while in Canada. Budget 2024 recently provided CAD \$41M to support the continuation of the important work that the MWSP supports, for an additional two years. The MWSP currently funds 10 recipients, who in turn have agreement with over 110 sub-agreement holders across the country. As of December 31, 2023, over 300,000 service interactions with temporary foreign workers across the country have been reported by recipients of MWSP funding.

39. Both the TFWP and the IMP proactively deliver outreach sessions with employers, consulates, migrant worker support organizations, and federal and provincial partners to raise awareness about temporary foreign workers' rights and the mechanisms that are available to flag concerns. These proactive approaches help to spread awareness of employers' obligations, as well as inform stakeholders on where to find resources so that they can play their part in supporting and protecting temporary foreign workers.

40. For example, any temporary foreign worker legally admitted to Québec with a permit totalling at least one year can benefit from *Accompagnement Québec*. This service enables temporary foreign workers to better prepare from abroad, creates awareness of their rights and obligations, and improves settlement and integration success when they arrive. Community organizations partnering with the Government of Québec also offer support to temporary foreign workers, notably through settlement efforts under Québec's *Programme d'accompagnement et de soutien à l'intégration (PASI)*.

41. In addition, agricultural temporary foreign workers admitted to Québec for one or more consecutive periods totalling less than a year benefit from reception and settlement services tailored to their needs (i.e., information on their rights, on the first steps in settling in, support, socio-cultural activities to break the isolation, etc.). They also benefit from reception services as soon as they arrive at the airport in Québec. They are greeted at the airport in French, English or Spanish, and provided with an agenda containing basic information on their rights and the community resources available to support them.

42. Furthermore, the Government has strengthened the regulation of immigration consultants with the establishment of the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants (College), which opened in 2021. The College is an arm's-length institution that protects both the public and consultants in good standing from those who take advantage of people in vulnerable situations by verifying authorized immigration consultants and accepting complaints regarding the professional conduct of a licensed consultant. It has new and strengthened tools to investigate professional misconduct and to discipline consultants who engage in exploitative activities.

43. As part of the College's new changes, the Government of Canada implemented a Code of Professional Conduct for consultants, which establishes strong ethical and professional standards that all licensed consultants must abide by. In particular, the Code outlines obligations and conditions that licensed immigration consultants must follow if they are to also provide recruitment services. For example, providing clear and transparent information about the employment contract to their client and not charging any recruitment fees to their client.

44. A dominant and increasing feature of the Canadian immigration system is the extent to which it is deliberately geared towards creating and facilitating transitions between temporary and permanent residency. In 2023, a total of 209,635 former temporary residents across all skill levels were admitted as new permanent residents, representing nearly 45% of total admissions.

45. In addition, incorporated into the TFWP and IMP are two streams specifically designed as pathways to permanent residency for temporary foreign workers: the Permanent Resident Dual Intent and the Permanent Resident-only streams. The two permanent residency streams help to enable temporary foreign workers' entry through immigration programs such as Express Entry, the Agri-Food Pilot, the Atlantic Immigration Program, or one of the Provincial Nominee Programs. Moreover, as of June 2024, a new caregiver pilot program was launched that allows home care workers who have been selected to receive permanent residence upon arrival in Canada.

IV. Indigenous Peoples

46. Canada is steadfast in its commitment to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples on the path to reconciliation. The Government of Canada recognizes that walking the path of reconciliation involves listening to, learning from, and working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada, as well as with Indigenous Peoples around the world.

47. In reference to paragraph 45, provincial governments have made strides to address overrepresentation of Indigenous children and young persons in the child welfare system. Within British Columbia, a variety of options are used to respond to a child welfare concern, with the least intrusive option available used to ensure a child's safety and well-being. For example, there could be support services provided to the family, supervision of the child's care in the home, placement of the child with relatives, or, if necessary, a child needing protection could be placed in foster care.

48. As of July 2024, the Government of British Columbia signed an agreement with the largest First Nation in the province to take full jurisdiction over child welfare including child protection.³

49. Furthermore, in Ontario, persons or corporations must be licensed to provide residential or out of home care where certain criteria are met under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017* (CYFSA). Out of home care licensees are responsible for delivering care and ensuring compliance with all licensing requirements. They are expected to provide high-quality care and meet the needs of children and young persons placed there.

50. Under the CYFSA, inspectors are appointed to conduct licensing inspections, which include entering and inspecting any out of home care setting that is licensed or is required to be licensed, including individual foster homes. Ministry inspectors conduct announced and unannounced inspections of licensed settings, assessing their compliance with regulatory and legislative requirements. Recent amendments to the CYFSA (through the *Supporting Children's Futures Act, 2024*) and its regulations will, when in effect, further enhance the Ontario ministry's oversight and enforcement of licensing requirements designed to help protect the health, safety, and security of children and youth in licensed out of home care settings.

51. In Ontario, there are a number of supports and services for children and adolescents in the child welfare system, including the [Voluntary Youth Services Agreement](#); the [Youth-in-Transition Workers and Housing Support Workers program](#); the Aftercare Benefits Initiative; [the Living and Learning Grant](#); the [Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent \(OCBE\) funding](#); the [Registered Education Savings Plan](#), and; the [Ready, Set, Go program](#).

³ [Cowichan Tribes sign historic agreement with Canada and Province of British Columbia to support their children, youth and families.](#)

V. Sex Workers

52. Former Bill C-36, which came into force in 2014, created new *Criminal Code* sex trade offences prohibiting purchasing sexual services (section 286.1), materially benefitting from others' sexual services (section 286.2), procuring others to provide sexual services (section 286.3) and advertising others' sexual services (section 286.4), while ensuring that sexual service providers are not held criminally liable for the role they play in any of these offences with respect to the sale of their own sexual services (section 286.5). This legislative framework is consistent with a "Nordic" approach to the sex trade, which was first implemented by Sweden in 1999.

53. Although selling one's own sexual services is not specifically criminalized, general principles of criminal law hold persons accountable for participation in offences (section 21), such that a person who agrees to sell their own sexual services commits an offence by being a party to the purchasing offence. However, a person who sells their own sexual services cannot be held criminally liable for that conduct because they are immunized from prosecution as explained above (section 286.5).

54. As explained in the [Government's Response to the report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights](#) that reviewed the provisions enacted by former Bill C-36, the Government recognizes that the issue of which legislative framework ought to apply to the sex trade is divisive and engenders strongly held views. The Government has also acknowledged that individuals may become involved, and remain involved, in the sex trade under very different circumstances, including by choice and through exploitation of vulnerable situations, and has committed to continuing to study these complex issues.

VI. Persons Deprived of Liberty

55. Correctional Services Canada (CSC) is committed to working with offenders towards becoming law-abiding citizens, and to keeping the public safe.

56. A Correctional Plan is part of CSC's legislative framework under the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA). It outlines a risk management strategy for each offender and specifies interventions required to address an offender's identified risks and needs. The Correctional Plan's intention is for the offender to work on their identified risk factors that led to their criminality in the interest of rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

57. The offender is expected to participate in the consultation process when updating their Correctional Plan and actively participate in meeting the objectives identified in their Correctional Plan. An offender that is not actively engaged in their Correctional Plan may not be working on their identified risk factors in a constructive and measurable way. This means that their reintegration success rate is reduced, and their risk of recidivism is increased, which could compromise public safety.

58. In reference to the cost of living as described in paragraph 56, it is important to note that offenders in CSC custody do not pay for food or accommodation, and those living at a community residential facility do not pay for accommodations. Moreover, CSC waived deductions for the administration of the Inmate Telephone system indefinitely in September 2023.

59. With respect to paragraph 58, CSC prepares offenders for community employment in many ways, including providing education programs, on-the-job training, vocational training on both technical and soft skills, and community employment services.

60. CSC also seeks to offer employment training in areas that reflect the current job market. The employment training offered by CSC covers seven of the nine [National Occupation Classification](#) codes (namely Business, finance and administration occupations; Natural and applied sciences and related occupations; Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport; Sales and service occupations; Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations; Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations; Occupations in manufacturing and utilities).

61. New types of vocational training are introduced regularly to adapt to the changing labour market. Regional labour market analyses are completed on a regular basis and analyzed in the context of the region's institutional and operational needs as well as offender profiles. For instance, in May 2024, Wildfire Training was introduced in Saskatchewan to recognize the need for trained individuals to assist in responding to existing wildfires. A total of 45 offenders successfully completed the training. Once released, those participants may have the opportunity to assist in fighting fires in their communities.

62. To assist offenders in leveraging the employment training, CSC provides community employment services to offenders under community supervision, including connecting them with potential employers. This support increases the likelihood of the offender's safe and successful reintegration.

63. The Government of Canada acknowledges that people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples are overrepresented in detention. CSC is committed to addressing the needs of Black and Indigenous offenders through tangible initiatives as indicated in [CSC's Anti-Racism Framework and Actions](#) and contributes to whole-of-government efforts to combat systemic racism. This includes developing targeted initiatives, implementing culturally responsive programming, and ensuring equitable treatment within the justice system. Continuous engagement with Indigenous Peoples, racialized individuals, local communities, and key stakeholders is crucial to driving meaningful change and achieving long-term progress.

64. For example, CSC is developing a Black Offender Strategy to identify opportunities to address the unique lived experiences faced by federally sentenced Black individuals.

65. CSC also engages with Indigenous Peoples and National Indigenous Organizations to:

- a) Develop strategies that supports a path to truth and reconciliation in federal corrections.
- b) Reduce systemic barriers and overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples within the federal correctional system.

66. CSC has also launched an Indigenous Offender Reintegration Contribution Program that provides reintegration support services and access to urban Indigenous interventions related to addictions, trauma, life skills and gang intervention.

VII. Access to Protection, Justice, Remedy, and Rehabilitation

67. Human trafficking is an abhorrent crime. Canada takes a whole-of-government approach to combatting human trafficking, holding perpetrators accountable and providing effective support to survivors.

68. In Canada, out of status foreign nationals who are survivors of human trafficking, including for the purposes of labour or sex, are eligible to apply for a temporary resident permit which grants them temporary resident status in Canada and renders them eligible to obtain healthcare coverage through the Interim Federal Health Program (including medical and psychological services and prescription drug coverage), and apply for an open work permit or a study permit, if they choose to. Temporary resident permits are processed on a priority basis and are typically issued from 180 days to three years.

69. An initial temporary resident permit is fee exempt for persons who are survivors of human trafficking. If an individual wishes to stay in Canada beyond the allotted time identified by the permit, they can apply for a subsequent temporary resident permit (not fee exempt), which can be issued for up to three years, or they can apply for one of Canada's permanent resident programs.

70. Issuance of temporary resident permits to survivors of human trafficking are guided by [Ministerial Instructions](#) and complimentary guidance for officers. These permits act as a protection measure by granting immigration status to out-of-status foreign nationals who are

survivors of human trafficking and would otherwise be exposed to situations of vulnerability due to the absence of an immigration status in Canada.

71. Survivors of human trafficking are not required to collaborate with law enforcement agencies investigating their cases or to testify against their trafficker(s) in order to receive a temporary resident permit. The Ministerial Instructions advise case officers that they may issue a temporary resident permit “to facilitate the participation of victims of trafficking in the investigation or prosecution of an alleged trafficking in persons offence in Canada, or otherwise assist authorities.” The Ministerial Instructions also advise case officers that they should consider “whether the victims are needed, and willing, to assist authorities in an investigation and/or in criminal proceeding of a trafficking offense” when assessing an application for a longer-term or subsequent permit.

72. With respect to paragraph 70, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Trafficking in Persons Working Group, which meets regularly, is an important forum for partners in different jurisdictions working to combat human trafficking to coordinate and leverage efforts. Sub-working groups advance collaboration and progress in the areas of community-based anti-human trafficking supports and services for victims and survivors; the use of technology to prevent, address and respond to human trafficking; and improved sharing of data, information, and research.

73. Public Safety Canada’s Human Trafficking Taskforce oversees the working-level implementation of the [National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking](#) and coordinates federal anti-human trafficking efforts.

74. Furthermore, the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that front-line professionals are equipped to effectively address human trafficking. This includes the provision of training programs for professionals and law enforcement, emphasizing trauma-informed approaches and awareness of the distinction between sex work and human trafficking. For further information on these efforts, refer to the [Government Response to the Tenth Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women](#).

75. Provincial governments have also published provincial strategies to combat human trafficking. [Ontario’s Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy](#) with an investment of CAD \$307M, prioritizes survivor-led and culturally responsive services and supports for victims and survivors of sex trafficking, children and youth, and persons experiencing risk of being targeted and trafficked. The strategy recognizes that access to safe, culturally responsive and respectful services, including for Indigenous Peoples and local communities is fundamental to prevention efforts, and to supporting survivors exit, recover, heal and rebuild.

76. Ontario is investing a total of CAD \$96 M in community-based services for victims and survivors of human trafficking (2020-2025) through the Anti-Human Trafficking Community Supports and Indigenous-led Initiatives Funds.

77. Furthermore, Ontario is committed to embedding survivors’ feedback in systems, policy, and program changes through engagement with the Lived Experience Roundtable, comprising of survivors of human trafficking who are uniquely positioned to provide feedback and perspectives to various ministries throughout the design and implementation of anti-human trafficking efforts. It is the first of its kind in Canada.

VIII. Conclusion

78. Canada reiterates its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

79. Canada again thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report and will take into consideration the recommendations and conclusions therein.