

# Canada's ~~Child & Forced~~ Labour Problem

*Risks of labour abuses in supply chains on the rise as Canadians demand action*

## Child and Forced Labour

### A GLOBAL PROBLEM

Child labour and modern day slavery (forced labour) continue to plague the world in 2017. An estimated 85 million children suffer in dirty, dangerous and degrading work. In addition, 21 million people have been coerced, trapped and intimidated into performing jobs, which put their lives and futures at risk. Tragically, 5.5 million of these forced labourers are children.

### A CANADIAN ISSUE

This report, produced by World Vision Canada, exposes the risk of child and forced labour associated with common Canadian household products, as well as the strong consumer perceptions and attitudes about this issue. It also explores realistic ways Canada can stop contributing to this global problem.

### FOR THIS REPORT, WE HAVE:

- Conducted a cross-reference of 2016 Canadian import data against the US Department of Labor's *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, to identify the serious risk of child and forced labour being used to make many of the products Canadians buy every day.
- Provided new Ipsos polling data in which Canadians revealed strong consumer knowledge, as well as clear perceptions on child labour, conscious consumerism and the potential actions required to address the issue.
- Included a case study analysis of legislative action taken in the UK and other jurisdictions to address child labour and modern slavery/forced labour within global supply chains, providing a road map for Canadian solutions to this problem.

### KEY FINDINGS

- 1 **Canadian links to child and forced labour continue to grow.** Canadian imports of "risky goods" totalled \$34 billion in 2016, up from \$26 billion in 2012, a 31% increase in the value of risky goods coming from countries with high incidences of child and/or forced labour.  
Disturbing data:  
  - 42% increase in garment imports from Bangladesh
  - 97% increase in tomato imports from Mexico
  - 107% increase in coffee imports from the Dominican Republic
  - 124% increase in footwear imports from India
  - 8852% increase in palm oil imports from Indonesia
- 2 **Canadians care about this issue, and demand action more strongly than ever before.** New Ipsos polling data reveals that the overwhelming majority of Canadian consumers want more information about who makes the products they buy.  
Canadians don't want to be left in the dark:
  - 84% feel frustrated by how difficult it is to determine where the products they buy are made, how they're made and who makes them. That's a 6% increase from our 2015 Ipsos poll.
 Canadians want the federal government to take action:
  - 91% agree that the Canadian government should require companies to publicly report on who makes their products and what they are doing to reduce child labour in their supply chains.
- 3 **Canada risks falling behind in the global fight to eliminate child and forced labour in supply chains.** A growing number of jurisdictions are already taking legislative action on this issue:
  - Four significant jurisdictions, the UK, California, the Netherlands and France, have all passed legislation to address child labour and/or modern slavery in their supply chains while others, such as Australia, are actively considering similar measures.



Photo/Cheeta Ten

When the monsoon rains come to Cambodia, Khav stops going to school so he can fish to earn money.

### REALISTIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consumers, companies and governments should all play a part in addressing Canadian links to child labour:
- **Canada's government** should work with the necessary stakeholders to create a law requiring that companies post comprehensive statements outlining steps taken to address child and forced labour in their supply chains, as with the transparency in supply chains provisions (section 54) in the UK's *Modern Slavery Act 2015*.
  - **Canadian consumers** can become stronger advocates, learning to identify goods originating from risky areas and asking key questions of companies importing these goods into Canada.
  - **Canadian companies** should commit to measures such as assessing supply chains for risky links; implementing strong policies and processes on, for example, supplier codes of conduct; training staff and suppliers to monitor conditions and implement standards, including unannounced, third-party auditing; and formal grievance mechanisms to report violations. **They should also publicly report on these efforts.**

## Child and Forced Labour: Global Problems

For most Canadians, it doesn't seem plausible that 85 million children – nearly triple the population of our country – suffer in exploitative, hazardous labour. Most can't believe that children and adults today are held against their will, trafficked or forced to work off a debt bond. It also feels impossible that children are dropping out of school and being forced, even sold, into a daily routine of dangerous, hard labour. In most people's minds, these practices were abolished hundreds of years ago, and are now just a distant stain on human history.

But these problems are still very real, and millions of adults and children continue to be exploited.

### CHILD AND FORCED LABOUR IMPACTS

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 21 million people are victims of forced labour, including the 5.5 million children, who are coerced, trapped, and intimidated to work, often in extremely dangerous conditions, with no ability to leave.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, the ILO estimates that there are 168 million child labourers globally. More than half of them, 85 million in total, work in hazardous jobs that are dirty, dangerous and degrading. These statistics do not include the type of work most Canadians would view as an acceptable part of growing up, such as after-school jobs or helping the family with household chores. All too often, these jobs take children out of school and put them directly in harm's way.<sup>2</sup>

Child and forced labour puts lives and childhoods at risk today, and robs children and adults of their potential for tomorrow. Child and forced labour robs



**85**  
million  
children  
in hazardous  
labour

Keli, 13, and many other Albanian children in his area sift through mountains of loose blast rubble to find chrome to sell to black market dealers.

Photo/Paul Bettings

girls and boys, and women and men of their rights, their dignity, and their chance for a healthy, fulfilling future. It forces them to live their days in exhaustion, hopelessness and desperation.

Child and forced labour also has real economic implications. Forced labour exploitation generates \$51 billion (USD) in illegal profits per year,<sup>3</sup> and the cost of child labour to the global economy amounts to 6.6% of global Gross National Income in lost potential growth.<sup>4</sup>

### CHILD AND FORCED LABOUR AWARENESS

Increasingly, media and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are bringing attention to the links between these troubling labour practices and the goods we consume. A recent Amnesty International [report](#) found that some of the world's largest companies are contributing to child labour and inhumane working conditions on palm oil plantations. Other recent news reports have uncovered Indian children mining mica for the makeup industry, children in the Democratic Republic of Congo mining metals that end up in our smartphones, child and forced labourers working in Thailand's multibillion-dollar seafood industry, and Syrian refugee children being recruited as garment-factory workers producing clothes in Turkey for major apparel brands.

### HOW IS CANADA INVOLVED IN THIS?

There is a high risk that these modern slaves made many of the products Canadians purchase every day in shopping malls and grocery stores. The problem isn't getting any better and our country still has no formal mechanism for keeping child and forced labour out of our consumer products.

While it is not the intent of this report to accuse any Canadian company of being intentionally complicit in child or forced labour – indeed, we found no evidence of this – this report encourages conversation between Canadians and the companies from whom they purchase products.

Child and forced labour is a complex problem, with no easy solutions. Both "push" and "pull" factors need to be addressed. But this cannot excuse inaction: Canada can and should do its part to address this global issue. Ending modern slavery and child labour in all its forms is a key component of the United Nations' eighth Sustainable Development Goal, which prioritizes decent work for all people and sustainable economic growth to end extreme poverty.

There are realistic ways to address the risk of child and forced labour in Canadian supply chains. Canadian consumers, companies and governments all have key roles to play in eliminating these egregious labour practices.

## Methodology and Limitations

In this report, we refer to “risky goods” to acknowledge that many companies import goods into Canada from countries with high instances of child and forced labour for particular goods.

The situation presents three inherent “risks” for Canadians.

Canadian companies are:

- 1 placing themselves at risk – most likely unintentionally – contributing to the immense problems of child or forced labour, and therefore:
- 2 placing consumers at risk of unknowingly supporting child or forced labour through their purchasing decisions, and
- 3 placing child and forced labourers at risk by not investigating and controlling what’s happening in companies’ own corporate supply chains.

### CANADIAN IMPORT DATA

Cross-referencing recent Canadian import data against the US Department of Labor’s report, [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#), identifies the unacceptably high risk that child or forced labour was used to make many of the products Canadians buy every day.

We began by selecting 50 common items from the 139 risky goods listed in the 2016 US report. These 50 items were then cross-referenced against the [Trade Data Online](#) database maintained by Canada’s Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED), which provides annual Canadian import data for these specific country/goods combinations.

The 2012 and 2016 comparisons of the total value of risky goods takes into account the updates the US Department of Labor makes to its list each year. For example, in 2016 footwear from Vietnam was considered a risky good, whereas in 2012 it was not.

### CANADIAN CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS

An Ipsos poll was conducted between February 7 and February 9, 2017, on behalf of World Vision. Where statistically significant changes have occurred, results are compared against a previous wave of tracking conducted in 2015. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 Canadians from Ipsos’ online panel were interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics, to ensure that the sample’s composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data, and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Canadian adults been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to, coverage error and measurement error.

### THE 50 “RISKY” GOODS WE INVESTIGATED

Bananas	Grapes
Beans (green)	Jade
Blueberries	Leather
Brazil nuts	Melons
Broccoli	Olives
Carpets	Onions
Christmas decorations	Palm oil
Citrus fruits	Peppers
Cocoa	Pineapples
Coffee	Rice
Corn	Rubies
Cotton	Sapphires
Cucumbers	Shellfish
Diamonds	Shrimp
Eggplants	Silk
Electronics	Silver
Emeralds	Soccer balls
Fireworks	Strawberries
Fish	Sugarcane
Flowers	Tea
Footwear	Textiles
Garlic	Tobacco
Garments	Tomatoes
Gems	Toys
Gold	Vanilla

## Canadian Imports of Risky Goods: What Canadians Should Know

**1** Canadians are at risk every day, of unwittingly purchasing products made through child or forced labour.

Child and forced labour is not just an international issue – it's also a Canadian issue that isn't going away. The total value of Canadian imports of the 50 risky goods assessed in this report totalled \$34 billion in 2016. These are products that Canadians use and consume on a regular basis: from clothing to food to electronics.

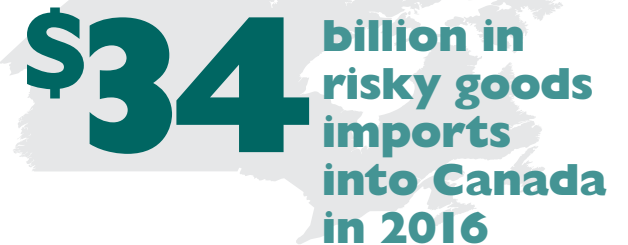
According to World Vision research conducted in 2016, more than 1,200 companies operating in Canada are known to be importing goods with a high likelihood of being produced by child or forced labour.

Canadian companies that import potentially risky goods range from large multinational corporations to small and medium-sized businesses. They operate in nearly every sector, from grocery and food production to retail and fashion. These companies have a tremendous amount of influence over how the goods they import are produced.

**2** Canadian companies are not sufficiently informing Canadians about actions they've taken to address these risks.

Many Canadian companies seem ill-prepared to address the possibility of child and forced labour in their supply chains. While a small handful of companies are leading the way with fulsome disclosures covering their policies and related due-diligence processes, many are completely silent, leaving consumers and investors in the dark about how (or even if) the company is taking steps to mitigate these risks.

As demonstrated by World Vision's 2016 Supply Chain Risk Report, more than half (52%) of the largest Canadian companies we sampled did not provide any public reporting on their efforts to reduce the risk of child or forced labour in their supply chains in 2016. Among the companies that did provide information, it was, in most cases, very limited – such as stating a policy commitment against child and forced labour. But there was little or no accompanying evidence or explanation of how these commitments were lived out.



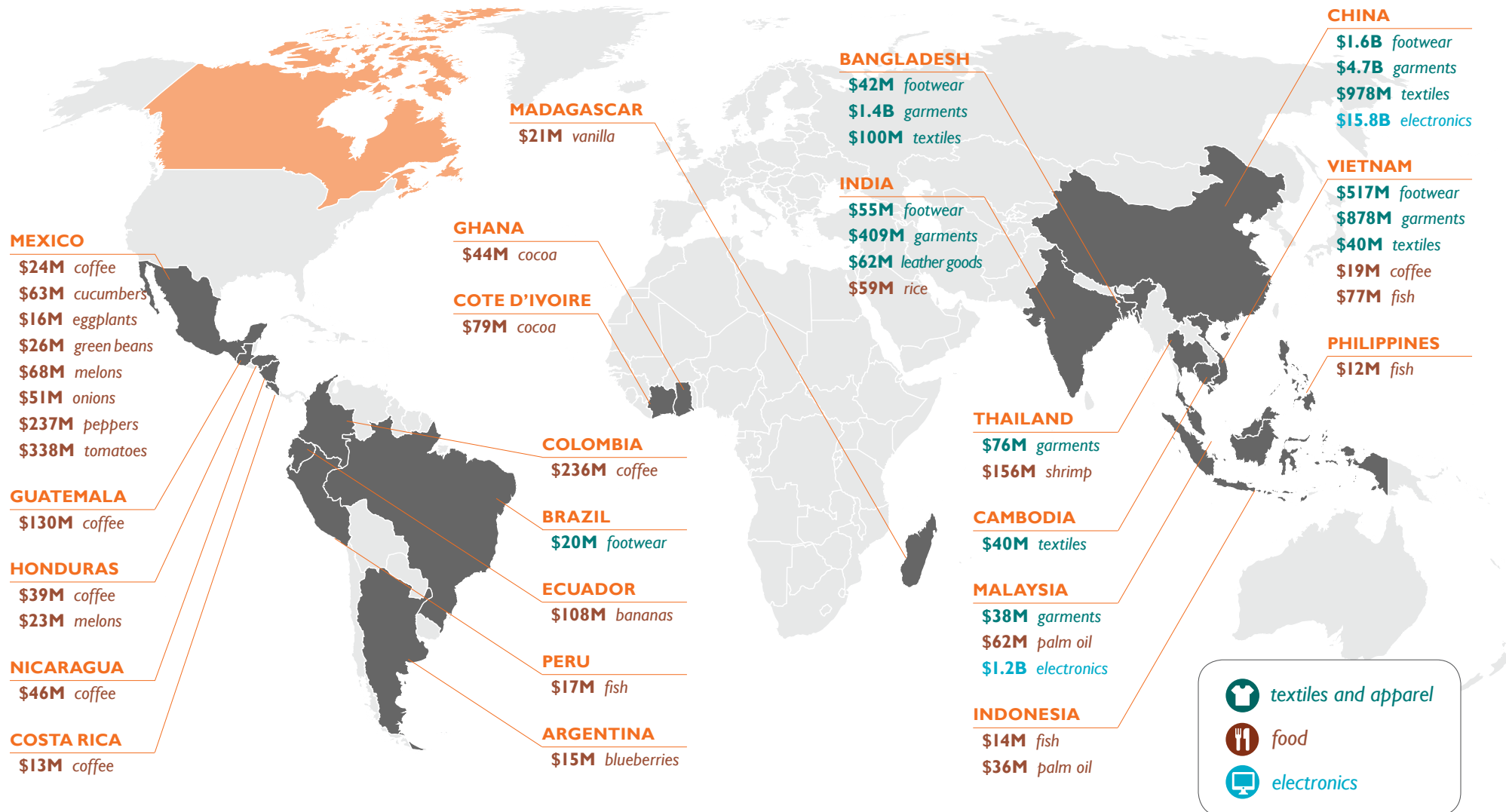
**\$34 billion** in risky goods imports into Canada in 2016



up from **\$26 billion** in 2012

## Where Is Child and Forced Labour Used?

### SIGNIFICANT CANADIAN IMPORTS BY COUNTRY, 2016



## Sector Profile: Textile and Apparel

Child and forced labour is pervasive in the textile and apparel sector – from child and adult forced labourers harvesting cotton in places like Uzbekistan, to young girls working in Indian yarn and spinning mills, to underage labourers working in high-pressure garment factories in places like Bangladesh.

The workplaces of these child and forced labourers are diverse: from fields to large factories, and everything in between. Many of these children work in small, informal and unauthorized factories performing tasks such as sewing pockets and buttons, cutting threads or running materials. Some children work in their homes, performing fine needle and embroidery work.

Similarly, child and forced labourers work in toxic leather tanneries and small and mid-sized shoe factories, assembling and sewing various components to make shoes that eventually find their way to Canadian and other markets.

As is the case with other sectors, most instances of child and forced labour are hidden further down the textile and apparel supply chains. In 2014, there were more than 406 companies importing textile and apparel goods into Canada, including retailers, manufacturers and distributors.

While retailers are often one or more degrees removed from the actual manufacturing process, they can have significant influence on these supply chains by leveraging their purchasing volume. This is especially true for larger companies. What's more, many large retailers sell private-label goods and, in these cases, they have a degree of direct control over the conditions under which these goods are produced.

### CASE STUDY

LIVES CANADIAN PARENTS COULDN'T IMAGINE FOR THEIR CHILDREN:  
FACTORY LABOURER

For the last three years, Bithi has worked with thousands of Bangladeshi children piecing together designer jeans destined for stores in Canada and other high-income countries.

"The first day I felt bad, I thought it wasn't good. I was too small," Bithi remembers. But that was three years ago, when she was 12. Now, it's routine.

Every day, Bithi helps create a minimum of 480 pairs of pants, for just over \$1 USD a day.

"That's 60 pockets an hour," the 15-year-old explains.

Bithi works in a cramped second-story room with 20 other Bangladeshi women, under fluorescent lights. The practice of sub-contracting jobs from larger garment factories allows government policies about child labour to go unheeded here.

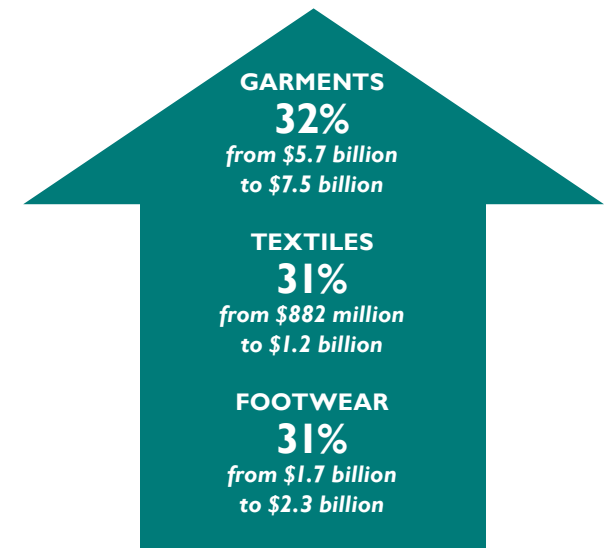
Although Bithi doesn't complain, she can't deny her longing to go to school. At one point, Bithi and her older sister Doli had dreamed of being doctors. But both girls have since put their dreams aside. There is no time for school when you're fighting to survive.



Bithi and Doli  
Dhaka, Bangladesh



### CANADIAN IMPORT INCREASES FROM 2012 TO 2016



## Sector Profile: Agriculture

Agriculture and food production are labour intensive, relying on a large source of cheap labour.

Approximately 60% of all child labourers are found in the agriculture sector, which includes farming, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, and livestock. These jobs are among the most dangerous, being high in accidents, fatalities and occupational illness.

The supply chains of foods that many Canadians consume on a regular basis – including coffee, chocolate, vegetables and seafood – have endemic challenges concerning child and forced labour. Because many of these commodities originate from multiple sources, tracing their origins is a challenging task.

The food and agriculture sectors have been found by [World Vision](#) and [others](#) to be among the least transparent about addressing child and forced labour risks in their supply chains.



Photo/Paul Bettings

*A boy picks coffee beans in Honduras. Honduras is one of the countries from which Canada imports coffee.*

### CASE STUDY LIVES CANADIAN PARENTS COULDN'T IMAGINE FOR THEIR CHILDREN: COFFEE PLANTATION WORKER

Melvin describes himself as a “fighter for my family.” He’s only 11, but as a worker on a coffee farm, Melvin let go of childhood a long time ago.

“Children who are forced to work lose their childhood,” he told us. “And for some, losing a childhood can be like losing a life.”

We met Melvin at the beginning of the coffee harvest in Honduras, which means that for the next five months (November–March) he would work 12-hour days. Those long hours would earn him just enough money to sustain his family for the whole year.

Melvin’s father was killed when he was a baby, which is why Melvin, at age 7, stepped up to be the breadwinner of his family of eight.

“Back then, it was more difficult to cut coffee because my hands were not tough,” he says. But now his hands earn him up to \$8 a day.

Sadly, child labour is as much embedded in the culture of Honduras as drinking coffee is in ours. As Canadians, we actually consume more coffee than any other beverage – 2.5 times more than water! But for something that we drink multiple times a day, we don’t know much about how it gets to Canada.

What we do know is that growth in imports of coffee to Canada outpaces import growth to Europe and even to the US. Honduras ranks sixth on the list of countries Canada imports coffee from.

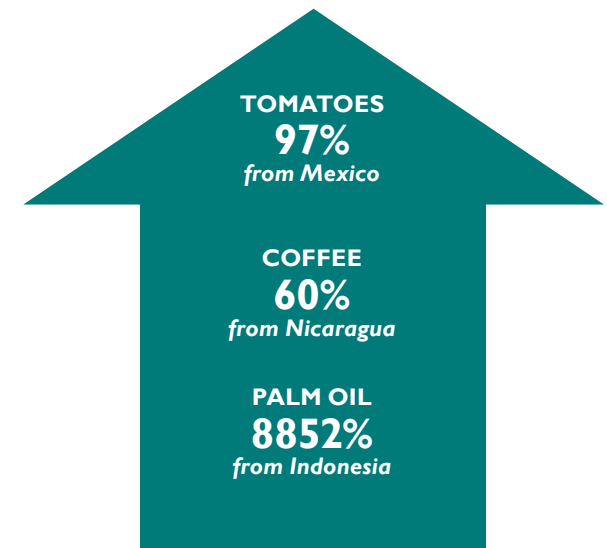
In 2016, Canada imported \$39 million of coffee from Honduras.

Does that mean that the coffee picked by Melvin is making its way into our local stores and coffee shops? We don’t know. Until companies provide better information on their supply chains and efforts to address these risks, we have little assurances that we’re not fuelling child labour.



Melvin, 11, Honduras

### CANADIAN IMPORT INCREASES FROM 2012 TO 2016





## Canadians Want Action

Canadians care that children may have been exploited to produce the products they buy every day. More than 90,000 Canadians have acted, by signing World Vision's petition asking the Government of Canada to address the risk of child and forced labour in our supply chains.

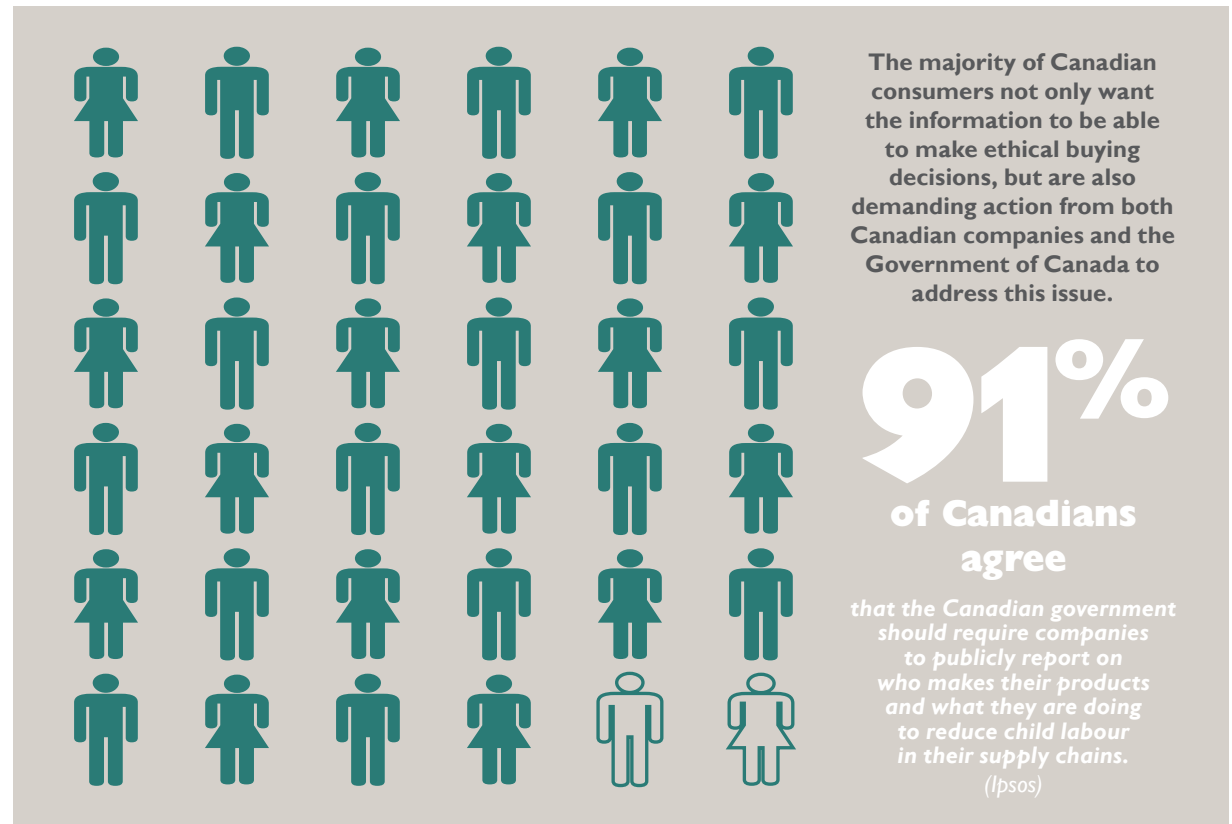
Through World Vision's *No Child for Sale* campaign, more than 150,000 Canadians have engaged both companies and our government on child labour issues through supporting a lifestyle of conscious consumerism.

A new 2017 Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of World Vision reveals that Canadians care about this issue.

Even the most proactive shoppers, though, are unable to make informed decisions because most companies fail to provide adequate information about what they are doing to keep their supply chains free of child or forced labour.

# 80%

of Canadians still have no idea if their purchases are contributing to the exploitation of children. (Ipsos)



Canadian have made it clear that they don't want to be left in the dark about who makes the products they buy and the working conditions of the labourers who make them.

# 84%

of Canadians feel frustrated by difficult it is to determine where the products they buy are made, how they're made and who makes them. (6% increase from 2015 Ipsos poll)

Consumers also indicated that their buying behaviour would be influenced by having access to more information.

# 77%

of Canadians claim that if they found out that a product they were buying regularly was made by children working in dirty, dangerous or degrading conditions, they would stop buying it and switch to another brand or ethically-certified product. (Ipsos)

## Canadian Perceptions on Child and Forced Labour

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

Asked to think about what they themselves can do, nearly nine in ten Canadians (86%) agree they can reduce child labour in other countries by changing their buying behaviour.



**86%**  
of Canadians agree they can reduce child labour in other countries by changing their buying behaviour

### CHANGING PURCHASING BEHAVIOUR

Canadians have shown that their awareness of child labour issues is increasing. Simultaneously, their tolerance for the possibility of child labour associated with their everyday products is decreasing. Citizens want to know whether the products they use are helping to fuel child labour. Many of them are willing to change brands in order to shop more ethically. These trends are on the rise, as the following graphics show.



84% agree that they want to make an effort to ensure they know how and where things they purchase are made (+10 points from 2015).

Six in ten (61%; +6 points from 2015) say they look for fair trade logos on products they purchase so they know that those who made the products are not being exploited.

55% (+6 points from 2015) agree they have gone out of their way to buy products that are fair trade or designated free of child labour.

77% claim that if they found out that a product they were buying regularly was made by children working in dirty, dangerous or degrading conditions, they would stop buying it and switch to another brand or an ethically certified product.



One in four (24%) says he/she would take action by sharing concerns with friends on social media.



Eight in ten (82%) say they'd be more likely to buy from a company that provides information about their efforts to address child labour in their supply chains than from a company that doesn't provide this information.



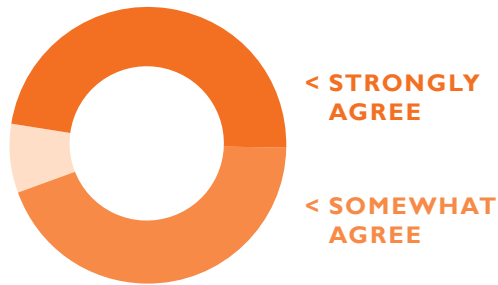
55% don't think that any products they use might have been made by children overseas; those that do, on average, guess that as many as 4.7 (effectively five) products they consume each day involve overseas child labour.

*One in ten (9%) suspects this number is 10 products or more!*

## Canadian Perceptions on Child and Forced Labour (continued)

### TAKING ACTION

Companies are seen by many as having an important role to play in helping to reduce child labour.



92% agree Canadian companies could reduce child labour by investigating their supply sources.

91% agree they want companies to share more information about what they are doing to make sure their products aren't being produced or grown by children.



Nine in ten Canadians (91%; +4 points from 2015) agree the Canadian government should require Canadian companies to publicly report on who makes their products and what they are doing to reduce child labour in their supply chains.

The incentive to be transparent with customers should be a powerful motivator for Canadian companies, given the clear desire of Canadians to know more about the labour practices that produce the products they buy. Any Canadian company that can show it is taking real, effective action to address the risks of child and forced labour will be in a better position to win the trust and loyalty of the public in our competitive global marketplace.

### Canadians believe these concrete actions will help stop child labour in other countries:

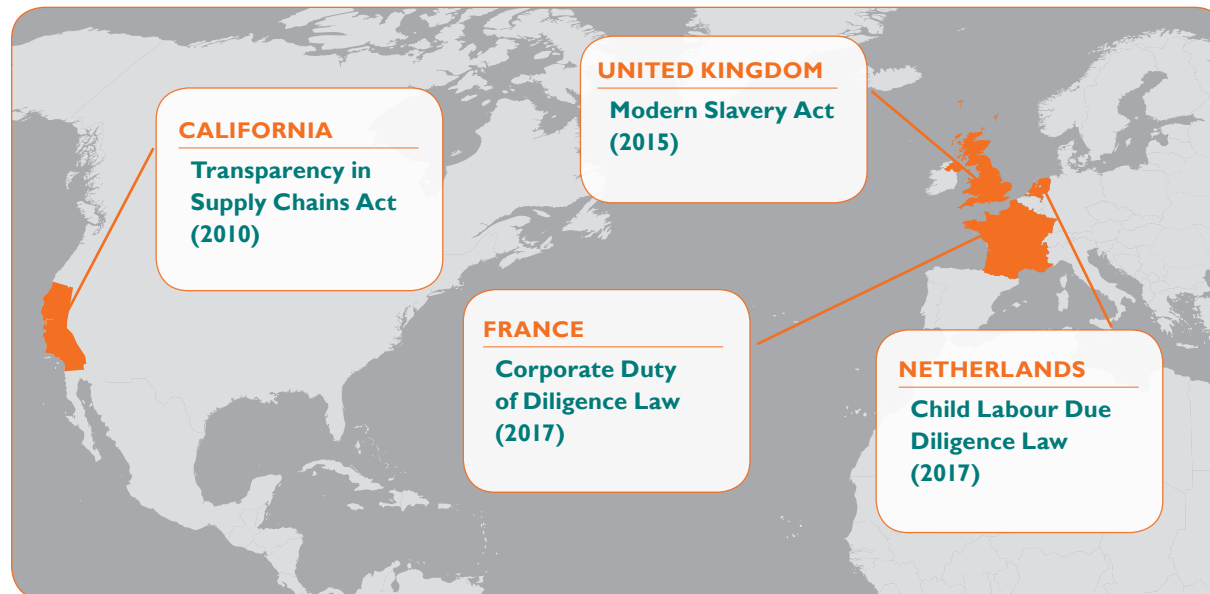
2016	73%	Canadian companies ensuring their vendors and suppliers overseas do not use exploitive child labour (73%; +4 points since 2015).
2015	69%	
2016	70%	Canadian companies being clear with Canadian consumers about the working conditions and child labour restrictions in the factories where their products are made (70%; +10 points).
2015	60%	
2016	66%	The Canadian government introducing legislation that would require Canadian companies to be more transparent about their supply chains (66%; +8 points since 2015).
2015	58%	
2016	64%	The Canadian government making sure its corporate partners and vendors are committed to transparent supply chains (64%; +8 points since 2015).
2015	56%	
2016	63%	The Canadian government working with governments in other countries to implement plans to make sure children aren't doing dirty, dangerous and degrading work (63%; +9 points since 2015).
2015	54%	
2016	45%	Canadian companies paying taxes and avoiding corruption in the countries where they work (45%; -4 points since 2015).
2015	49%	

Only a small number (7%) of Canadians believe none of these actions should be taken to help stop child labour in other countries, unchanged since 2015.

## What Is Being Done Elsewhere?

Canada is a leader in promoting the respect and dignity of people around the world. Yet we're not yet doing our part in the critical fight to eliminate child and forced labour from global supply chains. A growing number of jurisdictions are taking legislative action on this issue.

The UK, California, the Netherlands and France have all advanced legislation to address child labour, modern slavery and human rights issues in corporate supply chains. These new laws require companies to post comprehensive statements outlining the steps they have taken to address child and forced labour in their supply chains. This provides consumers and investors with the information they want, and encourages greater company action.



### BEST PRACTICE CASE STUDY UK MODERN SLAVERY ACT (2015)

The UK's *Modern Slavery Act* (2015) requires companies doing business in the U.K., which have annual revenues over £36 million, to produce an annual statement outlining the steps, if any, they are taking to address child and forced labour in any of their supply chains. This simple reporting requirement provides consumers with information they need to make more ethical purchasing decisions, allows investors to identify sustainable businesses and mitigate risks, and assists civil society groups by holding companies accountable to their human rights commitments.

The UK law builds on California's earlier *Transparency in Supply Chains Act* by requiring statements to be updated annually. Statements must be approved at the Director-level or above, thereby ensuring these issues are getting the right attention from the company's highest officials.

#### HAS LEGISLATION IN THE UK WORKED?

**The *Modern Slavery Act's* supply chain provisions are already driving significant corporate change. One study found:**

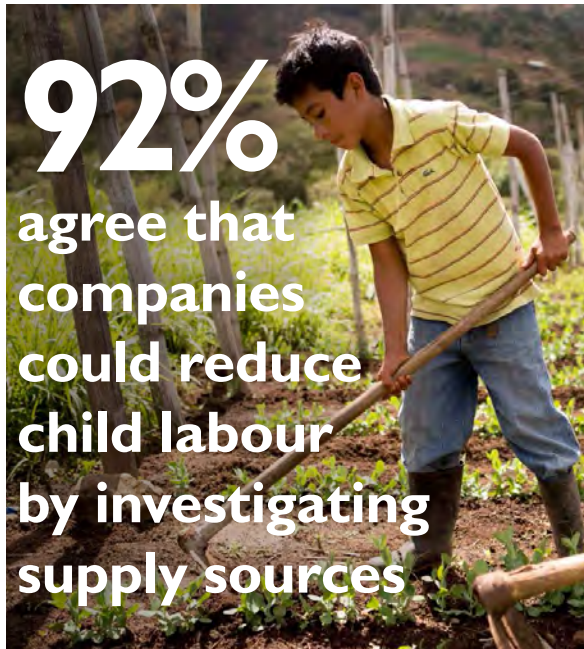
- A doubling of CEO engagement on modern slavery issues
- 39% of companies are implementing new policies and systems
- 58% of companies have dramatically increased communication with their suppliers
- 50% of companies have increased collaboration with other stakeholders to take action <sup>7</sup>

By harnessing consumer, investor and competitive pressure, these laws create positive incentives for companies to proactively deal with these issues, without being overly prescriptive or burdensome.

The successful implementation and lessons learned on collaborative legislation in other jurisdictions, including the UK and California, help to create a road map for Canadian leadership on this global issue.

## Conclusions and Solutions

Canada continues to import goods produced by children, and people who were forced into labour. Canadians buy these products every single day. While there are no simple solutions to the problem of child and forced labour, Canadian companies, consumers, and government can work together toward comprehensive solutions to eliminate labour that exploits children and enslaves people of all ages.



## Recommendations for Canadian Consumers

Concerned consumers can take these steps:

- 1** Learn about the connection between child labour and products in your home through the [No Child for Sale Virtual Tour](#).
- 2** Learn which goods might contain child or forced labour by checking out the US Department of Labor's [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#).
- 3** Ask companies what they are doing to address the risk of child and forced labour in their supply chains, and request that this information be made readily available. Some simple, direct question can be found on the [No Child for Sale website](#).
- 4** Encourage transparency and greater action by engaging in constructive dialogue with companies rather than accusing or boycotting them.
- 5** Make informed purchasing decisions wherever possible. Buy from those companies that have demonstrated a commitment to addressing child and forced labour.
- 6** Sign [World Vision's petition](#) asking Canada to create legislation requiring large companies to publicly report on their efforts to monitor, address and prevent child and forced labour in their supply chains.

## Recommendations for Canadian Companies

Importing goods from countries with known risks of child and forced labour does not mean that a company or its suppliers have done anything wrong. It does, however, mean that appropriate steps should be taken by companies to assess and mitigate these risks and proactively disclose these efforts.

We encourage all companies to:

- 1** Make a commitment to address child and forced labour.
- 2** Assess where your supply chains need attention to address these risks.
- 3** Implement strong policies and due diligence processes to ensure they are lived out, including:
  - a. supplier codes of conduct prohibiting child and forced labour
  - b. staff and supplier training to raise awareness and build capacity to monitor and implement these standards
  - c. unannounced, third-party supplier auditing to measure compliance
  - d. formal, accessible grievance mechanisms to report violations of standards, and a process for responding to reported violations
- 4** Clearly and publicly disclose the steps you are taking to address the risks of child and forced labour in your supply chains, providing consumers and investors with meaningful, comprehensive information.
- 5** Engage in dialogue on these issues with consumers, NGOs, government, investors and other companies.

## Recommendations to the Canadian Government

Given the extent to which Canadian companies are exposed to risks of child and forced labour, World Vision Canada calls on the Canadian government to work with relevant stakeholders – including companies and civil society groups – to develop legislation that would require companies operating in Canada to publicly report on what they are doing to address child and forced labour in their supply chains on an annual basis.

### WE BELIEVE CANADIAN LEGISLATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING KEY ELEMENTS:

- inclusion of all companies doing business in Canada with annual revenues above a pre-determined amount
- annual public reporting
- clear criteria on disclosure
- mandatory senior-level sign-off on company statements
- the creation of a single, searchable repository for company reports
- a published list of the companies required to produce statements
- robust enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance

### WILL THIS UNFAIRLY DISADVANTAGE CANADIAN COMPANIES?

- NO.** This is simply a reporting requirement. It does not limit company operations, dictate specific actions, or require the disclosure of proprietary information.
- NO.** It would only apply to large companies, those with the capacity and resources to meet the requirements and create effective change within their supply chains.
- NO.** Several Canadian and US companies are already reporting under the *Modern Slavery Act*.
- NO.** It would apply to all companies doing business in Canada, not just Canadian-headquartered companies.
- NO.** Major companies, including Amazon, IKEA and Marks & Spencer, voiced their support for this type of legislation during UK parliamentary hearings.

### HOW DOES THIS FIT WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES?

A child labour and modern slavery law realizes several priorities of the Government of Canada, including:

- promoting human rights
- supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- expanding Canadian leadership on global issues, including progressive trade and responsible business
- keeping Canada competitive and open to investment

## Conclusions

**It's time for Canada to join the global movement to address child and forced labour in global supply chains.**

- At \$34 billion per year, Canadian imports of risky goods continue to grow (*US Dept. of Labor*)
- Canadian companies are not sufficiently informing Canadian consumers about how they are addressing child and forced labour (*World Vision's Supply Chain Risk Report, 2016*)
- Canadians overwhelmingly demand federal government legislation to address this issue (*Ipsos*)
- Canada has an opportunity to join a growing list of significant global jurisdictions that have successfully implemented legislation to address child and forced labour

It's time for Canada to act, to cease our part in keeping children exploited and people of all ages trapped in forced labour.



**150 000**  
Canadians have engaged with World Vision Canada's No Child for Sale campaign

Children and their families sift through the mud to mine copper ore and gold in Kenya.

*Photo/Darcy Wintonyk*

## Further Reading

If you would like to learn more about the issues raised in this report, we recommend the following resources:

### WORLD VISION CANADA'S NO CHILD FOR SALE CAMPAIGN

[10 Steps Companies Can Take](#)

[Conscious Consumer Challenge](#)

[Check the Chain Report](#)

### US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

[List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)

### SECTOR-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

#### TEA:

[Labour exploitation in the global tea industry](#)

#### COFFEE:

[Labour exploitation in the global coffee industry](#)

#### PALM OIL:

[Forced, child and trafficked labour in the palm oil industry](#)

#### COTTON:

[Forced and child labour in the cotton industry](#)

#### TECHNOLOGY:

[Forced and child labour in the technology industry](#)

#### SEAFOOD:

[Trafficking and labour exploitation in the global fishing industry](#)

#### JEWELLERY:

[Forced and child labour in the jewellery industry](#)

## References

- 1 International Labour Organization. (2012). [ILO Global Estimate of Forced Labour 2012: Results and Methodology](#).
- 2 ILO. (2013). [Marking Progress Against Child Labour – Global estimates and trends 2000–2012](#).
- 3 ILO. (2014). [Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour](#).
- 4 World Vision UK and Overseas Development Institute. (2016). [Eliminating child labour, achieving inclusive economic growth](#).
- 5 World Vision Canada. (2016). [Supply chain risk report: child and forced labour in Canadian consumer products](#).
- 6 ILO (2013).
- 7 Hult International Business School and the Ethical Trading Initiative. (2016). [Corporate leadership on modern slavery: How have companies responded to the UK Modern Slavery Act one year on?](#)

© 2016 World Vision Canada

