

# Guide to Laws Prohibiting Forced Labour

in Canada

## What is forced labour?

Forced labour is any work or service that a person is obliged to do against his or her will without payment or under threat.

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protects people's right to life, freedom and security; nobody can be deprived of these rights unless as an exception and under the basic principles of justice.

## Know your rights:

- Every Canadian province has minimum worker protection standards.
- All workers are entitled to be paid wages for the work they perform.

For more information on your labour rights, see the [Guide to Minimum Employment Standards, Pay Deductions and Employment Insurance in Canada](#).

- In most cases, you can work wherever and whenever you wish, providing your work is not illegal.
- No one can force you to provide your services to an employer if you are not paid and do not agree.

## You should tell the authorities if:

- your employer threatens to physically mistreat you or another person if you leave your job;
- your employer says things that make you think that you or another person might be hurt if you leave your job;
- your employer locks you in the workplace;
- your employer threatens to prevent you from leaving home;



- your employer tries to take, keep or destroy your passport or immigration papers;
- a “coyote” (a person who secretly helps you cross the border) makes you work for free with the excuse of charging you for the “trip”;
- you are obliged to work in prostitution.



Your employer could go to prison if he or she forces you to work in prostitution or violates your freedom by refusing to let you leave outside working hours.

If you wish to know more about workers' rights in the province where you live, call:

Alberta	1-800-232-7215
British Columbia	(604) 852-5486
Manitoba	1-800-821-4307
New Brunswick	1-800-452-2687
Newfoundland and Labrador	1-877-563-1063
Nova Scotia	1-888-315-0110
Ontario	1-800-531-5551
Prince Edward Island	1-800-333-4362
Quebec	1-800-265-1414
Saskatchewan	1-800-667-1783



Commission for Labor Cooperation