



Modern Slavery Act Brief

Modern slavery is deeply embedded in Canadian economic supply chains where it is overlooked and out of sight from companies and consumers.

- About **40 million** people are trapped in modern slavery. ([ILO](#))
- It is estimated over **1,200 companies** operating in Canada import goods that are at risk of being produced by child or forced labour. ([World Vision Canada](#))
- Approximately **\$20 billion** (CAD) worth of goods at-risk of being produced through modern slavery are imported into Canada annually. ([2018 Global Slavery Index](#))
- **91% of Canadians** want to know if child labour and modern slavery has been used in the supply chain and what the government is doing to combat it. ([World Vision Canada](#))

Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, has tabled *The Modern Slavery Act* in the Senate.

The Modern Slavery Act would:

- Require large companies to report annually on measures taken to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used in their supply chains;
- Provide penalties and fines for non-compliance or false reporting;
- Include provisions to prohibit the import of goods manufactured or produced, in whole or in part, by forced labour or child labour;
- Create an inspection regime where inspectors would have the authority to examine a company's premises and collect information;
- Increase transparency by introducing a public registry of companies' statements.

The Modern Slavery Act will help to implement Canada's international commitment to slave-free supply chains and builds off key recommendations in the 2018 Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

The APPG to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking would be honoured to have the support of organizations across Canada. Written statements or letters of support which can be sent to info@endmodernslavery.ca.

Julie Miville-Dechêne

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