

Bill #4

The Business Ethics Act

WHEREAS The Canadian approach [for companies working abroad] is "promoting internationally recognized, voluntary guidelines for corporate social responsibility performance and reporting";¹ and

WHEREAS Canada has steadfastly resisted pressure to directly regulate companies' behaviour abroad, even when they're operating in jurisdictions with abysmal human rights records;² and

WHEREAS Consumers know that businesses exist to make a profit. But increasingly, consumers say they care about the social and environmental impact of a business's operations.³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1 As of January 1, 2015 the Government of Canada will establish Leading Active Banning of Operations of Unethical Repute [**LABOUR**], which will be designated to oversee ethical actions of all Canadian businesses. **LABOUR** will publish a document providing guidelines for ethical Canadian business practices.

(1) In addition to the yearly updated guidelines **LABOUR** will establish the following permanent regulations for businesses operating in Canada:

- (a) All positions within a corporation including internships must be paid positions receiving at least minimum wage.
- (b) If labour is outsourced out of Canada, the Canadian parent company must ensure the workers have the same worker's rights as Canadian workers.
- (c) No Canadian corporation may purchase goods or services from a company that employs slave labour, or that was created in a sweatshop.
- (d) Canadian corporations may no longer export goods that are banned for distribution in Canada.

¹ Marcus Gee (2012). For Canadian Companies Overseas, a Heart of Darkness. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/time-to-lead/for-canadian-companies-overseas-a-corporate-heart-of-darkness/article573681/>

² Matthew McClearn (2014). The Slave of Eritrea. *Canadian Business*. Retrieved from <http://www.canadianbusiness.com/global-report/the-slaves-of-eritrea/>

³ James Epstein-Reeves (2011). Consumers Expect CEOs to be Held Accountable and Take Action on CSR. *Forbes*. Retrieved from <http://www.forbes.com/sites/csr/2011/11/07/consumers-expect-ceos-to-be-held-accountable-and-take-action-on-csr/>

- 2 Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned regulations will result in:
 - (1) A fine of no less than \$10 000
 - (a) The corporation's top executives must pay 30% of this fine.
 - (2) Jail time for the corporation's decision makers, including but not limited to:
 - (b) The CEO
 - (c) The Board of Directors
 - (d) Managerial Staff
 - (3) Once sentenced to jail time under this legislation, the employee is barred from returning to the punished corporation
 - (4) Corporations causing excess environmental damage must contribute to efforts to negate these damages
 - (a) In the event of environmental damage of over \$5000, the corporation must pay a minimum of 75% of the cost.

- 3 Corporations importing goods into Canada must abide by the guidelines presented by **LABOUR**.
 - (1) On the first incident of non-compliance, the importer will be subjected to:
 - (a) A tariff proportional to the company's revenue, and the amount of the good they wish to import
 - (b) If the corporation has failed to make significant progress to resolve their non-compliance, imports will be banned for sale in Canada.
 - (2) The revenue from the tariffs placed on the companies will be allocated to the victims of the violation the company is accused of.
 - (3) The disciplinary action will be at the discretion of **LABOUR** dependent on the immediate need for the import in question.