

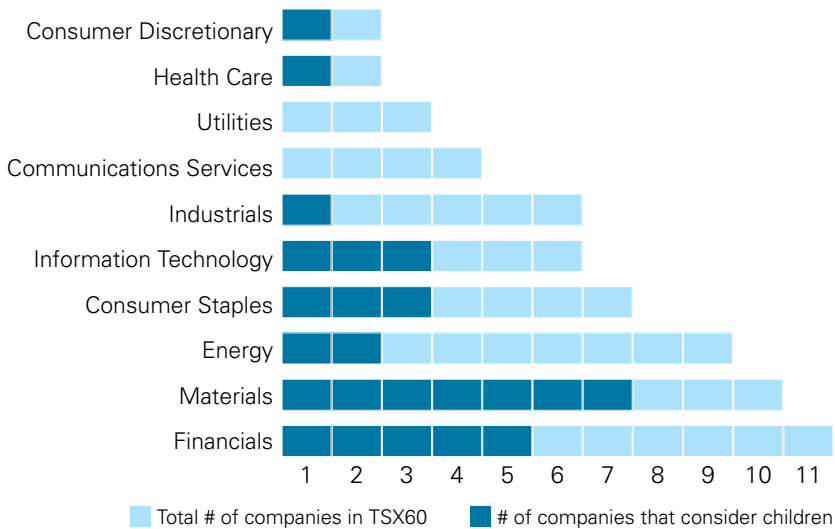


Principle 2: Contribute to the Elimination of Child Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 152 million children, almost one in ten children worldwide, are engaged in child labour around the world. This is work that is mentally or physically dangerous and interferes with their education. Of these, 73 million are in hazardous work that directly harms their health and safety.

Both children's age and their work conditions should be regulated and consider their broader rights and best interests. The Canadian Index of Child and Youth Wellbeing estimates that 12.4 per cent of 15-17 year olds in Canada work 16 or more hours a week, which may be risky to their health and development when it occurs during the school year. All businesses should refer to [ILO Convention No. 138](#) on the minimum age for admission to employment and work, and comply with national law or international standards, whichever is higher. No child under 18 years old should ever be engaged in the worst forms of child labour, defined in [ILO Convention 182](#), or 'hazardous' work that is likely to harm children's health, safety or morals. Child labour is a complex issue with social, economic and cultural roots. Addressing the causes of child labour requires a multi-stakeholder approach at both the community and policy levels. The corporate contribution to eliminate child labour includes working with governments, social partners and others to promote education and sustainable solutions to address the root causes of child labour. Working in collaboration with other companies, suppliers, sectoral associations and employers' organizations can help develop an industry-wide approach to address child labour and create a common culture for positive change.

TSX60 Companies that Consider Children in Relation to the Elimination of Child Labour



Good Practice Examples

- The **Mining Association of Canada (MAC)** is the national organization of the Canadian mining industry and represents companies involved in mineral exploration, mining, smelting, refining and semi-fabrication, who account for most of Canada's output of metals, minerals and energy products. MAC's *Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM)* program, focused on enabling mining companies to meet society's needs for minerals, metals and energy products in the most socially, economically and environmentally responsible way, includes a *Prevention of Child and Forced Labour Protocol*. This requires participating companies to commit to respecting the rights of workers and not engaging in practices of forced or child labour. To ensure this commitment is being adhered to, independent verifiers assess whether participating mines have processes in place to ensure that there are no instances of child and forced labour in their business.

Relevant Frameworks



Global Compact
Network Canada

- **Principle 5:** Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.



- **8.7** Secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and end child labour in all its forms



The Canadian Index of
Child and Youth Well-being

- Spending a lot of time at a job