

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act

Overview

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) is a Crown corporation and a national museum under the portfolio of the Minister of Canadian Heritage. The CMHR's mandate is to explore the subject of human rights, with special but not exclusive reference to Canada, in order to enhance the public's understanding of human rights, to promote respect for others, and to encourage reflection and dialogue. It falls within the "Information and cultural industries" sector. It is located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Inninewak, Anishinnewak, Dene and Dakota peoples, and in the Red River Valley, which is also the birthplace of the Métis. We acknowledge the people of the Inuit Nunangat who make their home on these lands. We also acknowledge that the water in the Museum is sourced from Shoal Lake and our hydroelectricity is generated by waterways in the north on Treaty 5 lands and by the Winnipeg River in Treaty 3 territory.

Procurement Description

The CMHR has two separate procurement streams. The first is for its general operations (purchase of supplies, equipment and services) and one for its boutique (items for retail). Operational procurement includes 2,147 vendors from which the Museum has made purchases. These vendors are found both within and outside of Canada. The goods the CMHR purchases range from office supplies, material for creating exhibits, and replacement technology for the Museum's galleries. The CMHR is found at the end of the supply chain, with most of the goods purchased from retail businesses and not directly from manufacturers.

The second procurement stream is for items sold in the CMHR Boutique. The items for the Boutique are acquired through a separate procurement process and accounting system. Items purchased by the CMHR's Boutique come directly from manufacturers or artisans. They include food items, pottery, jewellery, books, games, artworks, decor and clothing. Items are primarily purchased from Canadian vendors, with a handful of vendors or artisans from outside of Canada. Items offered through the Boutique are sold both domestically and internationally through the onsite Boutique and an online store.

Procurement Measures

During the reporting year, April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, the CMHR did not implement new policies or due diligence processes related to forced labour and/or child labour in its procurement processes.

The Museum has not begun the process of identifying operational procurement areas that carry the risk of forced labour or child labour during the reporting period. Therefore, the CMHR has not taken any remediation measures to address child or forced labour and has not taken any measures to remediate loss of income to the most vulnerable families.

At this time, the CMHR does not provide training to its employees on forced labour and/or child labour.

Current Policy

In 2014, the CMHR took active measures to ensure that it was purchasing goods from organizations that respected human rights and whose values aligned with the mandate of the CMHR. As a result, an Ethical Purchasing Policy was created to guide its boutique procurement activities. Found within this policy are explicit sections detailing the Museum's expectations from its suppliers with respect to Forced Labour and Child Labour. These expectations can be found here:

Forced Labour: There shall not be any use of forced labour, whether in the form of prison labour, indentured labour, bonded labour or otherwise. Workers shall not be required to lodge financial deposits or their original identity papers with their employer.

Child Labour: No employer shall use child labour. Adequate transitional economic assistance and appropriate educational opportunities shall be provided to any displaced child worker. Workers under the age of 18 shall not be exposed to situations in the workplace that are hazardous, unsafe or unhealthy.

When a new supplier is selected for boutique retail, an agreement is sent to the supplier (or in some cases, the individual artist or artisan). The supplier must review the CMHR's Ethical Purchasing Policy and sign the supplier agreement. If this is not completed, or if the supplier does not adhere to the conditions within the policy, the Museum has the right to end business relations with that supplier.