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The Aim of Our Program against Child Sex Tourism

Due to the rapid increase in tourism within the Americas region and the ensuing rise of CST, the participation of the travel and tourism industries in the prevention and reporting of offences related to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children has become essential to fight this problem. In an effort to expand its role in the fight against CST in Canada and abroad, the IBCR provides and promotes tools to prevent CST and to protect children against sexual exploitation in travel and tourism (such as the Code of Conduct to protect Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism).

Furthermore, the IBCR is actively working to increase multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination around the issue. To achieve this, the organization engages with key governmental and civil society actors in Canada to ensure the issue is considered a priority on the public agenda.

The IBCR also works to promote the incorporation of Children's Rights into Corporate Social Responsibility approaches in Canada. More specifically, one of the IBCR's objectives is to sensitize the Canadian Private Sector of Tourism to the issue of CST and its many implications.

It plans on establishing and strengthening alliances with key actors in Canada and abroad to create greater awareness of the consequences of CST among Canadian travellers. In addition to strengthening its alliances and initiatives with the Canadian Private Tourism Sector, the IBCR is looking at engaging other tourism institutions and agencies in the fight against CST.

The IBCR is currently searching for funding opportunities to carry out education and awareness campaigns that will sensitize and educate the Canadian population on the issue of Child Sex Tourism. The organization is also looking at establishing new partnerships and expanding its efforts and initiatives to Latin America and the Caribbean.



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2009 Event:

Forum: "The Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism"

WHEN: December 2 nd , 2009
WHERE: Montreal, Canada
WHY: The Forum's primary objective was to raise awareness around the scope of CST and its legal implications and consequences. It also functioned as a key platform to share good practices and tools in the fight against CST in Canada and abroad.
WHO: The Forum was coordinated and presented by Mr. Marco Sotelo, Program Manager for the Prevention of Child Sex Tourism, and M ^e Catherine Beaulieu, Senior Adviser of the Bureau. Key presenters of the forum included: Mr. Claude Levac, Director of International Relations and of the Protocol at the Sûreté du Québec, M ^e Carmen Rioux, the Director of Criminal and Penal Proceedings of Quebec, and Ms. Camelia Tepelus, Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. Representatives from the tourism industry were also present, including Ms. Nicole Bastien from Vacances Tour Mont Royal, Mr. Jean-Pierre Caron from Incursion Voyages, Mr. José Leroux from Thomas Cook and Ms. Patricia Recinos from Sunwing, among others.
WHAT: The response of the Forum's participants was exceptionally positive and constructive. The main outcomes of the Round Table discussions held at the end of the session included the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To develop a common message to be included permanently in companies' informative correspondence;➤ The dissemination of friendly yet cautionary and straight-forward awareness raising messages through both physical and electronic channels of information (documents, brochures, booklets, websites, e-mail) regarding CST and its social and legal consequences;➤ There was a strong interest from specific participating companies and agencies in receiving training and informative resources from the Bureau regarding the components of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in travel and tourism, its scope, and additional cautionary tools to effectively collaborate in its eradication; and➤ To incorporate the protection of children to participating companies' agendas and to elaborate a more efficient system of communication.