

Momentum builds for supply chain transparency (2000-2016)

- 2000 Following a student occupation of the president's office, the University of Toronto becomes first Canadian university to adopt an ethical licensing policy for apparel and other products bearing the U of T name or logo. Policy requires licensees to publicly disclose names and addresses of supplier factories.
- 2001 MSN and its coalition partners in the Ethical Trading Action Group (ETAG) launch campaign for factory disclosure regulations.
- 2002 Vector public opinion survey finds that 84% of Canadians support factory disclosure regulations.
- 2003 Thousands of university and high school students mail tens of thousands of clothing labels to Industry Minister Allan Rock demanding to know where their clothes are made and under what conditions.
- 2005 Canadian government rejects ETAG proposal for factory disclosure regulations.
- 2005 Nike becomes the first major apparel brand to voluntarily disclosure names and addresses of supplier factories globally.
- 2008 Mountain Equipment Co-op becomes first Canadian retailer to publicly disclose names and addresses of supplier factories.
- 2010 In run up to Vancouver Olympics, the ETAG and the international Play Fair at the Olympics campaign call on the Vancouver Organizing Committee to adopt an ethical licensing policy, requiring public disclosure of supplier factories of Olympic-brand products.
- 2013 Hudson's Bay Company announces plans to publicly disclose supplier factories making private label products, beginning with factories producing Olympic licensed apparel products.
- 2013 Rana Plaza building collapse kills over 1,100 Bangladeshi garment workers and injures over 2,000 others. Loblaw, whose Joe Fresh labels were found in the rubble, signs the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. The Accord publicly discloses the names and addresses of all factories covered by its inspection program, as well as the inspection findings and status of corrective action, but does not disclose the names of brands sourcing from those factories.
- 2016 International coalition of trade union and human and labour rights organizations contacts 72 apparel brands and retailers calling on them to publicly disclose more information on their global supply chains. 16 of those companies currently publish or have agreed to publish factory information in alignment with the coalition's Transparency Pledge standards, 4 just fall short of those standards, and 7 will publish more information than they do currently.