# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Introduction: Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>What we heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Engaging with Canadians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Canada and the 2030 Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Global and domestic challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Adopting the 2030 Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Leaving no one behind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Towards Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Leadership, governance and policy coherence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Federal leadership and cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Policy coherence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Provincial and territorial governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Indigenous governments and peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Communities, municipalities and cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Awareness, engagement and partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Awareness and engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Partnership for the goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Learning and knowledge sharing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Accountability, transparency and reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Global reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Canadian Indicator Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>National reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sub-national reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Reconciliation and the 2030 Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Indigenous knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Investing in the SDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Innovating for the SDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Engaging businesses on the SDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Financing for the SDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Moving forward together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Annex I – 30 actions to 2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Annex II – Federal department mapping of the SDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Annex III – Canadian Indicator Framework</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION
TOWARDS CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY
In September 2015, Canada and all United Nations Member States adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (the 2030 Agenda), a shared blueprint for partnership, peace and prosperity for all people and the planet, now and into the future. The 2030 Agenda focuses on the commitment to leave no one behind. At the heart of this agenda lie the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to address today’s social, economic and environmental challenges. These goals recognize that ending poverty must go hand in hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change and working to protect and preserve the environment.

Across the country and around the globe, Canadians are already answering the 2030 Agenda’s call to action. To accelerate progress on the SDGs, the Government of Canada is leading the development of a whole-of-Canada national strategy (the national strategy) for the 2030 Agenda through engagement with Canadians. By bringing together the voices and efforts of all levels of government, Indigenous peoples, municipalities, civil society, the private sector and all Canadians, the national strategy seeks to create a shared vision of how Canada will implement the 2030 Agenda and identify actions to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, both at home and abroad.

To inform the development of the national strategy, public consultations were held from March 15, 2019, to May 15, 2019. This consultation captured the feedback of almost 2,500 Canadians engaged in person in over 30 cities, in 13 provinces and territories, and it reached almost 42,000 people online. Canadians expressed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and their desire to have coordinated and inclusive action toward achieving the SDGs across Canada.

The result of the nationwide consultation activities is the creation of **Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy** (interim document). Consistent with implementation plans developed by other countries, this interim document is a first step toward establishing the structures, processes and activities that need to be in place to move the 2030 Agenda forward in a coordinated,

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**KEY OBJECTIVES OF CANADA’S APPROACH**

**Leadership:** Demonstrate leadership, at home and abroad, in shaping a sustainable and resilient future that promotes prosperity, partnership, peace, people and the planet, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

**Awareness:** Increase public awareness of the SDGs, their relevance to Canada and national and local efforts to achieve them.

**Partnership:** Provide stakeholders, other levels of government and Indigenous partners with opportunities to contribute to national follow-up and review processes and share their feedback on federal efforts and initiatives that will inform the development of Canada’s national strategy and the Canadian Indicator Framework.

**Participation:** Support Canadians and encourage them to make their own contributions to achieving the SDGs, and broaden public engagement. Create an environment of ownership on a small and larger scale, where everyone strives to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

**Integration:** Support and promote policies and initiatives across different levels of government that contribute to meeting the SDGs domestically and internationally, and identify opportunities to enhance policy integration and coherence.

**Accountability:** Demonstrate accountability to Canadians by ensuring that appropriate structures and processes are in place for regular transparent monitoring and reporting, and for the evaluation of activities and performance against targets and indicators.
transparent and accountable manner. It also highlights the various actors involved and the partnerships, innovation and investment required to achieve these SDGs.

Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy establishes the foundation for developing a Canadian Indicator Framework adapted to Canadian reality to accurately report on progress made with the SDGs. The first iteration of the Canadian Indicator Framework identifies proposed federal ambitions, indicators and targets, and complements the Global Indicator Framework used to track and report progress internationally.

Further engagement is necessary to move this interim document toward a national strategy that reflects a whole-of-society approach to Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy will serve as the basis for hearing from Canadians, in order to:

1. Highlight concrete commitments, actions, partnerships and initiatives currently being undertaken by various actors, including all levels of government, Indigenous partners, private sector, civil society, academia, communities and individuals to move progress on the SDGs forward.

2. Further the development of the Canadian Indicator Framework to identify additional indicators and targets, in order to more accurately reflect the Canadian experience across all dimensions of sustainable development, advance data disaggregation and explore local or community-driven measurement to complement existing indicator frameworks and data.

3. Develop a goal-by-goal overview of all 17 SDGs in Canada and an analysis of Canada’s performance against the ambitions, indicators and targets established in the Canadian Indicator Framework.

4. Identify priority areas for action based on Canada’s strengths, challenges and gaps in achievement of the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.

Everyone can help Canada fulfill the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs. Engagement, partnership and collaboration are essential throughout the implementation process to ensure Canada’s success. All Canadians are encouraged to share their ideas, views and feedback on Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy by participating online or contacting the Government of Canada by mail, e-mail, phone, fax, TTY, ASL or LSQ video. Together we can help shape a truly whole-of-Canada national strategy for Canada to implement the 2030 Agenda.
What we heard

To inform the development of the national strategy for the 2030 Agenda, a first round of public consultations was held from March to May 2019. Through this process, thousands of Canadians expressed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and their desire to see coordinated and inclusive action toward achieving the SDGs across the country. The following is a summary of what we have heard so far.

Several organizations across the country are already using the SDGs to frame, monitor and report on their social impact and many more are currently exploring ways to contribute further to the SDGs. Nevertheless, it is clear that many organizations had not heard of the SDGs; they were unaware of how they can contribute and of the extent to which they were already contributing. There was a noticeable need for greater awareness and engagement across all sectors.

The private sector in Canada is starting to look beyond traditional corporate responsibilities to implement innovative business models that generate social and environmental value in a sustainable way. Stakeholders also expressed their need to understand the business case for SDGs, and to develop opportunities for businesses, especially small- and medium-sized ones, to work more closely on the SDGs with civil society organizations and governments.

A number of academic institutions in Canada are taking a leadership role in advancing sustainable development across the country. Along with a rise in sustainable development research, some institutions are aligning the direction of their strategic research with the SDGs. Many academic institutions are pursuing engagement activities and developing curriculums that empower students to make informed decisions in favour of sustainable development.

Although many academic institutions have not yet integrated the SDGs into their mandates, they recognize the value of the SDGs, and consequently, are beginning to pursue options to contribute to them. We heard that an opportunity exists to continue building awareness, engagement and partnerships through education networks and by building on the best practices and successes of institutions already taking action to advance progress on the SDGs.

Direct engagement with youth has shown that they are unwavering in their determination and desire to help build a better future. They require more tools, greater awareness of the opportunities to get involved and further support to sit at decision-making tables. While youth are often strong advocates for a more sustainable future and many are taking action to make this a reality, many other youth feel far removed from influencing progress on the 2030 Agenda and designing a strategy that takes into consideration their unique perspectives. Young people are looking for better access to the planning process in order to help define success for Canada’s future generations.

Canadians were clear that the SDGs cannot be implemented in silos. Achieving the SDGs requires leadership at all levels, including the federal government, the provinces and territories, municipalities and national Indigenous organizations. Stakeholders, particularly from civil society, underscored the fact that action needs to be community-driven and supported by efforts to enable local contributions to sustainable development.

Many stakeholders made a link between Canada’s domestic efforts and its international efforts to advance progress on the SDGs. They acknowledged that Canadian investments in developing countries were driving progress and that, between local and global efforts, mutual learning can and should occur.

Leaving no one behind was seen as vital to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada. Stakeholders indicated the need for a collective and
concerted effort to engage directly with historically marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, persons with disabilities, seniors, members of the LGBTQ2 community and youth in order to support their unique needs and contributions. Many communities expressed their willingness to engage locally with familiar, trusted organizations working on issues that involve them directly.

Conversations were initiated with Indigenous partners, and linkages between the 2030 Agenda and reconciliation were clear. This initial engagement pointed to the fact that Canada’s national strategy must reaffirm its commitment to reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples and consider their culturally diverse population, their unique knowledge of the land and the distinct challenges many First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities face.

Stakeholders stated that the national strategy should also rely on high-quality disaggregated data to accurately assess progress and identify the key areas in which action is needed. We heard that systematic gaps in data pose a problem, especially in many smaller and remote communities. Regular, transparent and timely reporting is considered a necessity to track progress and ensure accountability.

Overall, stakeholders across the sectors noted that to successfully move the 2030 Agenda forward in Canada, we need to build awareness, foster engagement and forge partnerships. They also felt that the SDGs must be accessible and meaningful to Canadians.

WHAT CANADIANS ARE SAYING

“We feel that companies are in a good position to help achieve the SDGs, particularly through economic growth, the use of clean energy, employment, innovation, infrastructure and waste management.” [translation]
– Quebec Business Council on the Environment

“We call for the Government of Canada to take bold and ambitious action toward achieving the SDGs in ways that empower young people by actively involving them in all stages of the process.”
– Youth Climate Lab

“Localization of the 2030 Agenda requires continued partnership with historically marginalized communities, including Indigenous communities, at all levels of government, including provincial, territorial, and municipal levels.”
– British Columbia Council for International Cooperation

“Engage people with lived experience to ensure marginalized populations are represented.”
– Community Foundations of Canada

“Facilitate the creation of safe and inclusive spaces for engagement on the 2030 Agenda, including working in partnership with a range of diverse stakeholders that are best placed to engage different stakeholders.”
– Ontario Council for International Cooperation

“Moving forward in a sustainable way requires us all to think constantly about what we owe to each other and to future generations. We need to frame our expectations of what living a good life means in the context of planetary limits and a holistic understanding of prosperity.”
– Sustainable Development Solutions Network Canada
Engaging with Canadians

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

We heard from a diverse range of stakeholders including all levels of government, Indigenous peoples, municipalities, civil society, the private sector, academia, and youth across Canada.

The SDG Funding Program directly supported:

- 65+ In-person conversations
- 60+ Indigenous peoples consulted
- 40+ Community consultations
- 20+ Policy briefs
- 1 Movement map of 11,000+ Canadian organizations whose work supports the SDGs

Indigenous Engagement:

- 200+ Indigenous people and community members participated in community-led events
- 11 In-person meetings with Indigenous organizations

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

1817 total

Top 3 engaged pages by number of visitors:

- National Strategy: 568 visitors
- Leave No One Behind: 428 visitors
- Our Challenge: 421 visitors

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 500+ online survey submissions
- 87,500 Twitter impressions
- 114 Facebook likes

There are 17 #SustainableDevelopmentGoals to make our world a better place. Which ones matter to you the most? #Can2030Agenda
BACKGROUND
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2015, all 193 United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious 15-year plan to address some of the most pressing issues the world faces.

For Canada, the 2030 Agenda calls for concerted efforts to build an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future, a secure world founded on human rights and the rule of law, free from poverty and hunger. One with full and productive employment and access to quality education and universal health coverage, where gender equality has been achieved, culture and diversity are celebrated, and the environment is protected.¹

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are applicable around the world. However, the means of implementation should take into account the national and local realities unique to each country.

At the core of the 2030 Agenda are five key elements—people, prosperity, planet, partnership and peace—all supporting sustainable development that leaves no one behind. Central tenets include:

1. The 2030 Agenda is universal in nature and applicable to every country; the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are as relevant in Canada as everywhere else in the world.
2. The 2030 Agenda is ambitious and aspirational. It acknowledges the requirement to move beyond conventional actions to seek transformative solutions.
3. The SDGs are interlinked and indivisible. The achievement of any goal is linked to the achievement of others.
4. The 2030 Agenda can only be achieved when no one is left behind ensuring that every person can participate in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development.

¹ Government of Canada: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainable development is defined under the Federal Sustainable Development Act, the legislation that requires the government to prepare and report on the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy every three years.

In defining federal environmental sustainability commitments and actions, the FSDS will contribute to the broader whole-of-society 2030 Agenda National Strategy.

While the FSDS and the 2030 Agenda National Strategy are different, they reinforce each other. The FSDS supports Canada’s overall response to the 2030 Agenda from an environmental perspective, and contributes at the federal level to the broader whole-of-society implementation of the SDGs.

The Act defines sustainable development as: “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that sustainable development moves beyond essential environmental concerns and encompasses all three interconnected dimensions of sustainable development—environmental, social and economic. Sustainable development is an approach to all aspects of human activity.

Sustainable development not only ensures the planet’s health for future generations, it also includes economic stability and vibrant, healthy communities.

Aurora dance over Prosperous Lake, located east of Yellowknife on the Ingraham Trail.

Source: The Northern Council for Global Cooperation’s Northern Perspectives on the Sustainable Developments Goals photography collection. Funded by the Government of Canada’s Sustainable Development Funding Program.
The Sustainable Development Goals

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are its SDGs, 17 indivisible goals with 169 targets and more than 230 indicators. To achieve the SDGs, they would best be implemented in an integrated manner that recognizes how the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development are mutually reinforcing; failure in one area could lead to failure in others.

Efforts have been made to better understand the linkages and inter-relationships that exist between the SDGs. For example, dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how fragile natural resources are managed and used. Achieving food security and improved health outcomes help to eradicate poverty. Fostering peaceful and inclusive societies could reduce inequalities and help economies prosper.

The 2030 Agenda also recognizes the central role that achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls plays in realizing all 17 SDGs, which is why it is not only a stand-alone goal (SDG 5) but also one that is integrated into the targets and indicators of all 17 SDGs. Sustainable development cannot be achieved if half of humanity continues to be left behind.

Understanding these linkages is necessary for building integrated strategies and policies that create connections between different goals and for better understanding the tensions and potential trade-offs among them. It is a common misconception that economic growth and environmental protection are at odds, that a choice must be made between stimulating growth and creating jobs, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Canadian experience shows that the economy can grow, society can develop and the environment can be protected, all at the same time. All three aspects of sustainable development—economic, social, and environmental—are essential.
CANADA AND THE 2030 AGENDA

Global and domestic challenges

Four years into the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, progress has been made with many of the goals and targets. However, it is not proceeding at the pace needed to achieve this ambitious agenda. While Canada embraces diversity and enjoys unsurpassed natural beauty and vibrant communities, social and economic inequalities persist and many Canadians still face barriers to inclusion. While the majority of Canadians enjoy a good quality of life, three million people still struggle to satisfy their basic needs. Too many Canadians still have to make difficult choices, like whether to live in safe housing or eat nutritious meals, or whether to buy clothes for their children or save for their future.

Canada has the world’s longest coastline which borders the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans creating one of the largest ocean bodies of any country in the world. These waters are central to Canada’s heritage, culture and economy. Canadians rely on their coasts and waterways to earn a living, import goods and export Canadian products. Canada has made progress protecting the health and resilience of its oceans, and it continues to pursue the conservation and responsible use of oceans and marine resources for sustainable development.

Beyond our borders over the last two decades, tremendous progress has been made toward improving the lives of people around the world. Support to achieve the Millennium Development Goals—the predecessors of the SDGs—coupled with strong economic growth in many developing countries have led to a dramatic decrease in the number of people living in extreme poverty. Health and education outcomes have also improved. The spread of information and communications technology is helping to accelerate human progress. However, not everyone has gained equal benefits. Globally, hundreds of millions of people still live in extreme poverty and have unequal access to resources and opportunities; women and girls are disproportionately affected by these disparities. Violence, displacement, conflict and climate change also add to these challenges.
Adopting the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are the global community’s response to the serious challenges the world faces today. Adopting the 2030 Agenda presents a historic opportunity for Canada and the world to work together to positively shape how societies grow and develop sustainably and inclusively, to the shared benefit of all.

While the 2030 Agenda is a global agenda, its relevance is equally important to Canada. It aims to make sure people have access to the education, training and skills they need to build better futures. It promotes good health and well-being, it supports safe, resilient, accessible and clean communities, and it ensures that everyone can live dignified and prosperous lives free from discrimination.

Achieving this agenda requires a whole-of-Canada effort. By adopting the 2030 Agenda, Canada has committed to working with its national and international partners to build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world that leaves no one behind. Across the country and around the globe, Canadians are already answering the call. From businesses acting in socially responsible and environmentally sustainable ways, to organizations making progress with gender equality, communities providing services to those most vulnerable and individuals opting for more locally sourced and sustainable products—everyone has a role to play and can contribute to moving the 2030 Agenda forward.

Beyond domestic success, Canada has the opportunity to work with the broader global community, including people and organizations from around the world, to overcome shared challenges and achieve the shared ambitions of the SDGs.

As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

– Transforming our world:
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Leaving no one behind

The 2030 Agenda finds its roots in the principles of inclusiveness, diversity, dignity, respect, fairness and opportunity for everyone. Those considered left behind in Canada often include women, Indigenous peoples, newcomers, people with disabilities, seniors, members of the LGBTQ2 community and youth. Leaving no one behind means that everyone—no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or abilities—should be included in the economy and in society. All people should be able to participate in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development.

For Canada, achieving this principle starts with supporting those furthest behind and putting in place adequate monitoring to ensure progress improves for all. This also requires a clear understanding of who is being left behind, the reasons they are being left behind and their specific needs. Further, emphasis will be placed on hearing from all segments of society, particularly under-represented and marginalized groups, and ensuring they actively participate in shaping the way Canada implements the 2030 Agenda.
It is recommended that Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy cover the following:

- Leadership, governance and policy coherence
- Awareness, engagement and partnership
- Accountability, transparency and reporting
- Reconciliation and the 2030 Agenda
- Investing in the SDGs

A summary of each section is provided below, along with a total of 30 proposed actions for all areas of focus.
Leadership, governance and policy coherence

Every segment of society should be able to contribute to the advancement of the SDGs. While governments have primary responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda, for Canada, leadership can happen at all levels and take many forms, from the highest level of government, to grassroots community organizations, to the everyday Canadian—anyone can be a leader.

Domestically, Canada is putting forward an approach to governance in which Canadians and the federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments work together to achieve the SDGs. This includes:

- working across different levels of government to create an environment that fosters ownership and collaboration on the SDGs;
- supporting Canadians, encouraging them to take ownership and make their own contributions to achieve the SDGs; and,
- supporting policy coherence for coordination and progress across the SDGs.

Internationally, Canada will work to make advancements on the SDGs with partner countries, local civil society organizations, the private sector and stakeholders, and through regional and international institutions.

WHAT IS POLICY COHERENCE?

Policy coherence for sustainable development is an approach and policy tool used to integrate the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development at all stages of domestic and international policy making. It aims to increase governments’ capacities to achieve the following objectives:

- foster synergies across economic, social and environmental policy areas;
- identify trade-offs and reconcile domestic policy objectives with internationally agreed objectives; and
- address the spillovers of domestic policies.

Source: Coherence for Sustainable Development: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
Federal leadership and cooperation

At the federal level, an important first step is making sure that effective leadership and governance structures are in place to coordinate and monitor progress. To this end, the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development has the overall responsibility to lead Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda in close collaboration with all other ministers and their departments. Additionally, the Minister of International Development will champion Canada’s international efforts to advance progress on the SDGs, including through support to international organizations and development partners.

All federal ministers, departments and agencies are accountable for supporting the development of the national strategy and implementing the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs within their areas of responsibility. This shared collaboration across the Government of Canada will help to ensure that Canada’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda remains focused on effective implementation from now until 2030. Officials across federal departments and agencies will work together to integrate the SDGs into their work, engage with stakeholders and report on progress made on the SDGs within their purview.

To support a whole-of-Canada approach, the Government of Canada has established an SDG Unit to coordinate efforts, raise awareness, monitor and report on Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Policy coherence

Due to the indivisible and interconnected nature of the SDGs, an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires greater policy coherence and integration in order to promote mutually reinforcing policy actions and avoid a duplication of efforts.

As an important first step to achieving policy coherence, the Government of Canada is mapping existing federal policies, programs and initiatives against the SDGs. This entails identifying both the policies that are most relevant to each of the SDGs and associated targets, and the linkages between policies contributing to one or more SDGs. Federal departments and agencies are undergoing an examination of how their policies and programs contribute to the 2030 Agenda’s goals and targets to identify gaps and areas where action is required.

Policy coherence between Canada’s domestic and international actions is also essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Recognizing the interconnected nature of the SDGs and the linkages between Canadian actions and progress at local, national, regional and global levels, policy coherence will support more integrated approaches to addressing sustainable development challenges.

Provincial and territorial governments

As a federation, the responsibility for sustainable development in Canada is a shared one, and all levels of government contribute significantly to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Actions taken on the SDGs at the federal level are intended to complement and support initiatives taken by other Canadian jurisdictions.

Canada’s provinces lead the delivery of numerous policy areas, such as education, skills development, health systems, justice, social services, road safety, affordable housing and sustainable infrastructure. They also have primary responsibility for postsecondary education. They are key drivers of the economy and important investors in research and development. Canada’s three territories have many of the same responsibilities regarding social services, the administration of justice, and increasingly, land and onshore natural resource management.

In this respect, provincial and territorial government policy makers and regulators play an important role in advancing sustainable development in Canada. Each province and territory has a key part to play in supporting Canada’s progress on the SDGs, including measuring their progress and reporting on their areas of responsibility. The Government of Canada will continue to engage with the provinces and territories through existing
forums like the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers’ Roundtables to identify opportunities for collaboration and for sharing best practices on the SDGs.

Indigenous governments and peoples

The Government of Canada is committed to renewed nation-to-nation, Inuit–Crown and government-to-government relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. This commitment is informed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) calls to action and the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, including:

- recognizing Indigenous peoples’ right to self-determination;
- adopting a distinctions-based approach;
- respecting Indigenous peoples’ constitutionally protected interest in their traditional lands and resources;
- acknowledging Indigenous peoples’ inherent jurisdiction over matters that directly impact their socio-economic and cultural well-being; and,
- consulting and engaging meaningfully with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples by taking the time necessary to work with national Indigenous partners to determine how best to reflect the contributions of Indigenous peoples to the 2030 Agenda.

Indigenous self-government is part of Canada’s evolving system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders of government. Because modern treaty and self-government agreement holders exercise rights and jurisdiction in a number of areas that include education, health and lands, they have a key role to play in developing and implementing SDGs. Canada has signed 25 modern treaties spanning more than 40% of Canada’s land mass; 22 agreements include self-government or are accompanied by self-government agreements. Canada is also signatory to four stand-alone self-government agreements and two sector self-government agreements in education. More modern treaties, self-government and rights-based agreements will be signed in the coming years.

Collaboration with Indigenous peoples is crucial to Canada’s successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the central commitment to leave no one behind. Engagement with Indigenous partners and National Indigenous Organizations will strengthen cooperation to develop an integrated approach to advancing the SDGs. It will also help to effectively implement Canada’s obligation to uphold Indigenous peoples’ inherent right to self-determination and honour commitments under modern treaties and self-government agreements.
Communities, municipalities and cities

Cities are epicentres for jobs, growth, diversity, culture and innovation, and they provide frontline responses to address Canada’s most serious social and environmental challenges, including poverty, food insecurity, disaster relief, homelessness and crime. Canadian communities, municipalities and cities play a pivotal role in successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda. Local governments can advance progress on sustainable communities (SDG 11) through integrated planning, housing, sustainable transport, inclusive urbanization, waste management and inclusive and green public spaces. Local governments across Canada are not only implementers of the 2030 Agenda, they are also policy makers who deliver direct programs and services to Canadians.

Many Canadian cities are already taking action on the 2030 Agenda, providing an early sign of how Canada is progressing with its implementation of the SDGs. Approximately 23% of all SDG global indicators—almost a quarter—have a measurable local or urban component, demonstrating the unique role local governments play to implement the 2030 Agenda and localize the SDGs. Actors at the sub-national level can turn the broad 2030 Agenda into practical actions that have real, immediate impacts on communities and individuals.

Given that more than half of the seven billion people on the planet live in cities, and that two thirds of them are expected to do so by 2050, cities are at the forefront of this agenda. Local governments and actors are best placed to link the SDGs with local actions using the common language of the 2030 Agenda to discuss shared successes and challenges at all levels—local, sub-national, national and international.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COHERENCE

- Demonstrate leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda, both at home and abroad, by coordinating a whole-of-Canada national strategy for the 2030 Agenda and measuring progress made on the SDGs.
- Align federal reporting mechanisms and support the integration of the SDGs into new and existing strategies, policies and programs across federal departments and agencies to increase policy coherence.
- Develop training materials on the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for federal public servants across all departments and agencies.
- Ensure diverse representation at the United Nations High-Level Political Forums from all levels of government, including the provinces and territories, Indigenous governments and peoples, communities, municipalities and cities.
- Develop long-term inclusive engagement plans with Indigenous partners and communities, National Indigenous Organizations, Modern Treaty Organizations and Indigenous Self-Governments to further implement the 2030 Agenda. Identify opportunities for collaboration and for integrating Indigenous perspectives, priorities and ways of knowing into the SDGs, support capacity building and increase awareness about the 2030 Agenda.
- Foster collaboration with communities, cities and municipalities to further implement the 2030 Agenda locally, and support action to achieve the SDGs.
- Share best practices and identify opportunities for collaboration and for localizing the SDGs across all levels of government and with communities and local organizations.

3 UN Habitat SDG Goal 11: A guide to assist national and local governments to monitor and report on SDG goal 11 indicators
Awareness, engagement and partnership

Establishing effective partnerships is fundamental to implementing the 2030 Agenda, both at home and abroad. Partnerships bring together diverse voices, resources and knowledge to collectively accelerate action. Although Canada has a long tradition of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and many segments of society are already taking action on the 2030 Agenda, more work is needed to build awareness and engagement and sustain effective networks and partnerships.

Awareness and engagement

One of the biggest challenges that Canada and all countries face in implementing the 2030 Agenda is the low level of awareness about the SDGs and the lack of widespread engagement in their regard. In order for Canadians to commit to and support the 2030 Agenda, they first need to be aware of and understand the role they can play to advance the achievement of the SDGs. In particular, engagement and awareness across society would help to:

- ensure a broad understanding of the possibilities, impacts and outcomes of the 2030 Agenda, and the commitments and actions needed to achieve the SDGs;
- create spaces for open and productive dialogues and partnerships, so Canadians can collaborate and share ideas, stories, best practices and viewpoints; and,
- ensure transparency and accountability in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

A national strategy for the 2030 Agenda that reflects the ambitions and aspirations of all Canadians to move forward with the SDGs requires meaningful engagement across all segments of society. In Canada, awareness of the SDGs is limited, even though so many Canadians are already contributing to many of them. Focus needs to be placed on raising awareness about the relevance and potential of the goals to guide us toward a better future. Unifying Canadians through a common, Canada-specific vision will help build momentum and spur action on the SDGs. Increased engagement and dialogue across...
sectors, including all levels of government, Indigenous partners, civil society, business and academia, will be essential to delivering effective communications strategies. This involves increasing outreach, organizing events and activities, exploring innovative communications approaches, and bolstering and expanding awareness-building efforts through partnerships and networks.

To make sure that no one is left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it will be important to hear from and profile under-represented and marginalized voices. For Canada, local governments, institutions and communities with established and trusted connections to these groups are in the best position to mobilize and engage in the SDGs in a manner respectful of diverse needs. Geographically, engaging Canadians from coast to coast presents a challenge, and as such, efforts will focus on reaching rural and remote communities. Certain barriers and challenges are unique to or greater for Indigenous peoples and may be even more pronounced for those Indigenous peoples who live in northern or remote communities, or who are women, members of the LGBTQ2 community or persons with disabilities or functional limitations. Engagement with Indigenous peoples will be integrated into all aspects of the 2030 Agenda implementation, but Indigenous peoples will be given additional consideration in order to support their participation. Organizations that serve marginalized and under-represented communities will also be supported to continue creating safe, engaging spaces for all people to participate in the 2030 Agenda.

Part of Canada’s approach to raising awareness of the SDGs will include highlighting the efforts of Canadians who are already contributing to the 2030 Agenda, both at home and abroad, through compelling storytelling. The Government of Canada will be responsible for leading open, inclusive and transparent engagement processes to reach Canadians through various forums on developing and implementing Canada’s national strategy for the 2030 Agenda. Proactive reporting on Canada’s progress achieving the goals will be made available to the public.

**Partnership for the goals**

Canada recognizes that multi-stakeholder partnerships are essential in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. While many Canadians are already coming together and collaborating on the SDGs, more work can be done to support and leverage the work of stakeholders, including not-for-profit organizations, the provinces and territories, municipalities, academia, the private sector, Indigenous peoples, women, youth and under-represented and marginalized populations.

To this end, Canada will support partnerships that emphasize horizontal collaboration and innovation across sectors that help further implement the 2030 Agenda. This includes partnerships aimed at building awareness and engagement, expanding or establishing new partnerships and networks, and advancing capacity building and research. Support will also be provided for establishing Indigenous peoples as key partners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Increasingly, the 2030 Agenda is guiding the work of international organizations. Canada takes the opportunity to advance progress on the SDGs while participating in many important global forums, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Group of Seven (G7) and Group of Twenty (G20). Canada will continue to act as a convener, connector and catalyst of inclusive change at the international level.

Canadian organizations also play an important role in Canada’s international efforts. Through collaboration with their local counterparts, these networks and organizations are helping to drive change and results on the ground in order to advance the SDGs in developing countries.
Learning and knowledge sharing

Vibrant and diverse networks of students, schools, academics, scientists, researchers, think-tanks, institutions of higher learning and continuing education, and educational associations are key to bringing about the transformative changes needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Collectively, their work is vital to achieving the SDGs as they make discoveries, generate new ideas and create solutions to global challenges.

Learning and knowledge sharing can generate a fundamental shift in how we think and act toward one another and the planet. In addition, lifelong learning and knowledge sharing about sustainable development and the SDGs will empower learners to make informed decisions and take responsible actions that support environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. For example, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students can benefit from the co-application of traditional Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in classrooms.

Education and research are also recognized in a number of the SDGs. Academic institutions play a direct role in addressing these; however, their contribution to the SDGs is much broader. They support not only the implementation of each SDG, but also the SDG framework itself; educational and research institutes across Canada are already taking innovative action and building global networks to advance SDG-related research. The Government of Canada is working closely with a number of universities and colleges to raise awareness about and support research, innovation and knowledge sharing on the SDGs.

Bringing together diverse experts with practical knowledge, experience and insights about approaches that work well enables Canada to enhance problem-solving, innovation and peer learning. These are important implementation tools that can generate new solutions to sustainable development challenges.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: AWARENESS, ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

- Work with partners on compelling storytelling and calls to action, and highlight the stories of Canadians who are taking action on the SDGs from coast to coast to coast.
- Support a national SDG forum that brings together diverse stakeholders to discuss the 2030 Agenda and to collaborate on innovative approaches to advance progress on the SDGs in Canada.
- Work in partnership with organizations and communities to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized groups are aware of and engaged in the 2030 Agenda.
- Enable horizontal partnerships and collaboration that promote the sharing of best practices, ideas and experiences relating to the 2030 Agenda.
- Leverage opportunities at key international and regional events and forums like the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the G7 and G20 summits and the OECD to share best practices for implementing the 2030 Agenda, showcase Canada’s efforts and collaborate with other countries to increase the impact of the SDGs and help build momentum.
- Support First Nations, Metis, and Inuit-led research initiatives, protocols, and governance structures and partner with schools, universities, academic institutions and research networks to support research, development, resource sharing and youth engagement in the SDGs.
- Establish a representative external advisory committee of experts to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada.
- Support research in areas that help identify gaps in Canada’s efforts to meet the SDGs or improve the understanding of the social, economic and environmental needs of under-represented populations who are at risk of being left behind.
Accountability, transparency and reporting

Accountability and transparency throughout the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires frequent and early collaboration with partners to develop inclusive, comparable and meaningful measures to track and report on progress.

To ensure accountability for implementing the 2030 Agenda, governments have agreed to follow up and review processes at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels. Reporting processes present opportunities to: raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda; engage citizens, elected officials and non-State actors; share lessons and best practices; identify gaps, challenges and ways to accelerate action; and ensure accountability.
Global reporting

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, plays a central oversight role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. Presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), in which each country assesses its progress implementing the 2030 Agenda goals and targets, is an essential component of the HLPF. Each country is expected to present at least two VNRs by 2030. Canada presented its first VNR in July 2018, and it will prepare at least one additional VNR before 2030.

The UN Member States have agreed to a set of global indicators to track progress on the SDGs and the targets of the 2030 Agenda. Canada is an active member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators that developed the Global Indicator Framework, and it continues to work toward developing statistical methods for new indicators and refining existing indicators.

Statistics Canada will continue to report on Canada’s progress against the Global Indicator Framework through the SDG Data Hub, which is updated regularly as new data becomes available.

Canadian Indicator Framework

Effective measurement is the key element in monitoring progress toward achieving the SDGs. While the Global Indicator Framework is designed to measure progress at the global level, a successful implementation of the SDGs requires that each country define what constitutes success in its own national context.

Building inclusive monitoring systems requires the participation of all stakeholders to ensure the inclusion of Canadian interests and perspectives. Canada is using an iterative approach to develop the framework. As a first step, consultations with federal departments helped to identify existing Canadian ambitions, indicators and targets so that a first iteration of the Canadian Indicator Framework (Annex III) could be developed.

The objective of the Canadian Indicator Framework is to enable Canada to track progress using a set of nationally relevant, objective and comprehensive indicators. This first draft of the framework will be used to support further national and local consultations on proposed Canadian ambitions, indicators and targets. It is meant to begin the process of standardizing metrics to measure Canada’s progress in achieving the SDGs and to help Canada set its level of ambition and priority areas of action. It will also support a consistent, flexible approach to measuring and benchmarking progress, which will help governments and other stakeholders share experiences, best practices and new ideas.

The data that supports the Canadian Indicator Framework comes from existing data collection and reporting from different sources, such as surveys, the census, administrative records, monitoring networks, scientific analyses, geospatial imagery and other forms of open data. The inclusive and comprehensive monitoring of vulnerable populations requires that data be joined from many sources, including non-traditional sources. The best available data will be used and disaggregated or broken down to the extent possible. Disaggregation shows how different socio-economic groups and geographic areas are faring across all the SDGs and will help to identify gaps in Canada’s progress.

Collecting appropriately disaggregated data is critical to ensuring no one is left behind. Improving capacity to measure Canada’s contribution to the SDGs will ensure that the potential impact of relevant sectors is fully realized and investment is appropriately scaled. Better, more consistent data will support implementation efforts and provide governments, civil society organizations and the private sector with improved information on how, why and where to invest to maximize contributions to broader policy objectives.
National reporting

Monitoring progress through robust tracking and coordinated federal reporting on the SDGs is critical for Canada to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. Regular reporting will allow Canada to take ownership of the SDGs, be accountable to Canadians on its progress towards implementing them, measure progress, identify gaps, take stock of what is working and correct the course where necessary.

Regular reporting to Canadians on Canada’s progress toward implementing the 2030 Agenda will ensure accountability for the commitments and actions outlined in the national strategy. The Government of Canada will regularly provide a progress report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda as set out in the national strategy. National reports will be evidence-based and outcome focused.

Statistical reporting on progress against the Global and Canadian Indicator Frameworks will be shared through Statistics Canada’s SDG Data Hubs and updated regularly as new data becomes available.
Sub-national reporting

Sub-national reporting, or domestic reporting done at levels that are not federal, is crucial for providing context to citizens and municipal decision makers. It enables all Canadians to compare their local living standards and rates of progress to those in similar communities, and in turn, promote collaboration and peer learning across the regions. It facilitates the monitoring of distinct priorities and areas, and unique biospheres, such as the living conditions in cities and municipalities and the health of our seas, coasts, tundra and forests.

To encourage sub-national reporting, Canada will support:

- the development of mechanisms across federal departments, and across wider national, regional and local stakeholder and Indigenous organizations, to support the effective monitoring and evaluation of the work done to achieve the SDGs and to align efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda in Canada;
- the coordination of responsibilities for the collection, interpretation and analysis of SDG-related data, recognizing the role of different actors within civil society, academia and the private sector; and,
- actions to ensure that processes and procedures exist for data validation and to ensure the standards of evidence produced are being consistently improved.

Local governments, through Vital Signs reports and Community Foundations of Canada, are already working toward and reporting on the 2030 Agenda. All actors differ in their approaches, priorities and implementation plans to work toward the 2030 Agenda or specific SDGs. Despite these differences, embracing the flexibility of the 2030 Agenda and supporting sub-national actors can support the achievement of the SDGs across the country. Highlighting their strengths through communications and reporting activities will build strong foundations for implementation across Canada.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

- Participate annually in the High-Level Political Forum and present at least one additional Voluntary National Review to the United Nations before 2030.
- Advance data disaggregation and explore local or community-driven measurement to ensure the framework reflects and monitors under-represented and marginalized groups.
- Enhance data disaggregation and recognition of Indigenous identity across the Canadian Indicator Framework to the extent possible, and enhance the future integration of Indigenous-owned community-based data, building on work like the National Outcome-Based Framework’s development of Indigenous indicators of poverty, health and well-being.
- Present a report on Canada’s national strategy regularly, and report annually to Canadians on progress made in the Global Indicator Framework.
- Support independent review mechanisms and peer review processes as a means to enhance Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Support sub-national reporting to highlight new and existing actions locally that are making progress on the SDGs.
Reconciliation and the 2030 Agenda

Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda will support reconciliation, establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in this country. All 17 SDGs are relevant to Indigenous peoples and directly linked to the human rights commitments outlined in the UNDRIP, the calls to action by the TRC and the calls for justice arising from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The SDGs’ foundation in human rights principles and their connections to the UNDRIP can provide a common language to facilitate conversations among Canada’s diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and non-Indigenous people.

The overall focus of the 2030 Agenda on human rights principles and standards, leaving no one behind and reducing inequalities is of particular relevance to Indigenous peoples who are frequently at a disadvantage compared to other segments of the population. Upholding their rights is an absolute imperative if Canada is to achieve the goals in the 2030 Agenda.

Supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action

The desire for reconciliation runs deeply throughout Canada, and the 2030 Agenda aligns with a number of the TRC’s calls to action that provide a framework for advancing reconciliation.

The SDGs’ focus on leaving no one behind speaks to the needs of millions of Canadians struggling with poverty and exclusion, and it is of great significance for many of the country’s approximately 1.7 million Indigenous people with the challenges they face. In this respect, the timing of the SDGs is critical in the wake of the TRC’s 2015 final report and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ 2019 final report.

Reconciliation inspires both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to transform Canadian society so that future generations can live together in dignity, peace and prosperity. It is an ongoing process of creating and fostering respectful relationships. A critical part of this process involves recognizing the impact that Canada’s colonial history has had on the First Nations, Inuit and Métis, repairing damaged trust, offering individual and collective reparations, and following through with concrete actions that demonstrate real societal change. It requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability and transparency.

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4 The number of people who reported an Aboriginal identity in the 2016 Census of Population
5 Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation of Canada
7 Canada’s residential schools: Reconciliation, the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission volume 6
Indigenous knowledge

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that the traditional knowledge systems of Indigenous peoples across the world are valuable and must be protected. At the same time, the insights they hold have the potential to inform and contribute significantly to Canada’s sustainable development efforts, including support for sustainable livelihoods, consumption patterns and practices, and food security.

The TRC’s 10 Principles of Reconciliation include the following two principles, which highlight the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the reconciliation process:

- The perspectives and understanding that the Indigenous elders and traditional knowledge keepers have of the ethics, concepts and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
- It is essential to support the Indigenous peoples’ cultural revitalization and to integrate Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, connections to the land, laws and protocols into the reconciliation process.\(^8\)

Although Indigenous knowledge is multi-dimensional and no single definition of it exists; it can be described as rooted in the traditional or ancestral knowledge of the skills and behaviours that allowed Indigenous peoples to thrive on their lands and be flexible enough to continuously adapt. Indigenous knowledge may also encompass knowledge passed down over generations and knowledge from the experience and application of unique cultural teachings.\(^9\)

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination, including in the area of research. Achieving this is one of the most effective and efficient means of embedding Indigenous knowledge, and all other indigenous perspectives and expertise, into research, policy and programs. Self-determination in research requires that Indigenous research priorities be respected by governments, researchers, and research institutions. It can also ensure that research governance bodies, policies, and practices facilitate impactful, meaningful research and produce new knowledge that empowers Indigenous peoples to meet the needs and priorities of their communities.\(^10\)

Indigenous peoples have much to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Canada recognizes that the few global indicators in which Indigenous peoples are specifically included do not explicitly recognize Indigenous knowledge or contain diverse definitions of well-being, nor do they promote non-monetary measures of well-being. Canada and countries around the world recognize the need to better support, understand and strengthen the knowledge, practices and efforts of Indigenous peoples when addressing and responding to sustainable development.

\(^8\) Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: calls to action
\(^9\) Métis Nation Knowledge Systems: Domestic and International Contexts, Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Hodgson-Smith Law (Kyle P. Vermette), and Celeste McKay Consulting Inc. (June Lorenzo, Celeste McKay and Campbell MacLean)
\(^10\) National Inuit Strategy on Research
PROPOSED ACTIONS: RECONCILIATION AND THE 2030 AGENDA

- Implement the 2030 Agenda with full regard for the rights of Indigenous peoples by protecting and promoting these rights, as reflected in the 10 Principles of Reconciliation, the TRC’s calls to action, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ calls to justice and the UNDRIP.

- Consult with National Indigenous Organizations and Indigenous communities to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented collaboratively and in ways that respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis to self-determination, and support participation in implementation and review processes.

- Raise awareness about Indigenous ways of knowing among all Canadians.

- Support the development of resources that connect the past, present and future experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in Canada to the 2030 Agenda.
Investing in the SDGs

Investing in the SDGs means investing in Canada’s prosperity and that of future generations. By working together, focusing efforts where they can have the greatest impact and investing resources in areas like science, innovation, technology and partnerships, progress toward achieving the SDGs can be further accelerated.

Achieving sustainable development is key to securing future economic prosperity, ensuring the health of the planet and preserving global peace and security.

Innovating for the SDGs

Societies and economies are experiencing profound changes that involve economic transformation, such as new industrial geography, commercialization and privatization, technological revolutions in informatics and biotechnology, global climate change and environmental degradation. All these shifts interact in complex ways and challenge our previous understanding of effective social, economic and environmental models.

In this context, many see innovation as a potential solution to some of society’s greatest sustainable development challenges. For Canada, this means supporting innovation projects with interconnected impacts that support the SDGs through partnership. It also means creating opportunities for Canadians to come together to share best practices, test creative ideas and measure their impact, catalyze action and achieve improved outcomes, and aim to leave no one behind.

Technological innovation and advancements are rapidly changing our understanding of what is possible at local, national and global levels. When considering challenges like achieving the SDGs, it is clear that new strategies and technologies are needed to achieve these collective goals. Many of Canada’s most important innovations for the SDGs will be initiated through direct community-level work, social entrepreneurship in the private sector, technological advancement or new efforts that provide the proof of concept that the public sector can take up, at scale.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: INVESTING IN THE SDGs

- Enhance collaboration between different levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors and research communities, and support the development of new and innovative partnerships, approaches and breakthroughs to advance multiple SDGs.
- Encourage philanthropic organizations, private sector firms and private investors to contribute to achieving the SDGs through opportunities for collaboration which could include: sustainable production and procurement processes; resource efficiency, clean energy and the regenerative use of natural resources; improved social protection for labour; adoption of circular economic approaches; ESG-compliant investment in emerging and frontier markets; and corporate social responsibility initiatives.
- Partner with organizations to encourage SDG implementation in the business community, including corporate social responsibility initiatives.
- Engage with partners to develop, test and deploy innovative and flexible financing tools that will mobilize new investments to achieve the SDGs in Canada and abroad.
- Measure the economics and the effectiveness of the impacts of successful SDG implementation, different resourcing requirements and potential types of funding.
Engaging businesses on the SDGs

The private sector is already leading the way on many of the SDGs and is an essential part of sustainable solutions. More and more, companies recognize the SDGs as levers for innovation, growth and competition. The SDGs also comprise a powerful framework for strengthening companies’ purpose narratives and for attracting talent, customers and investors.

As more than just a source of financing, private sector partnerships can support technological development, knowledge transfer, innovation, job creation and alternative revenue streams. For Canada, engaging with Canadian entrepreneurs and tapping into the knowledge of the private sector—large organizations, cooperatives, social entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises and international corporations—is central to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Private sector and private capital contributions often take one of two main forms: good governance in business practices, or investment in sustainable development. This includes a commitment to sustainable development, transparency and accountability in managing sustainable development, supply chain practices, responsibility to avoid harm and partnerships with government to maximize the co-benefits of investment.

Financing for the SDGs

Achieving the SDGs in Canada and around the world will require new resources and partners nationally and internationally. It will be beneficial if both small- and large-scale investors can move beyond acknowledging the SDGs and aligning with them, and focus on raising and directing new capital to support a range of financial instruments with varying financial returns and supporting environmental, social and economic sustainability practices.

Achieving Canada’s sustainable growth potential will require a change in the interaction between innovation, policy and regulation, consumer behaviours, risk management, and investment patterns. In each of these areas, the financial system plays a critical role in directing capital flows, managing complex risks and unlocking opportunity. Significant opportunities exist for Canada to develop solutions that help to close the SDG funding gap, including collaboration with private capital investors and philanthropic organizations. Social finance is an important tool that can significantly enhance Canada’s progress on the SDGs by seeking to mobilize private capital for the public good, creating opportunities for investors to finance projects that benefit society and for community organizations to access new sources of funding to address sustainable development challenges.

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11 Final report of the expert panel on sustainable finance: Mobilizing finance for sustainable growth
Canada recognizes the importance of partnerships to achieve the SDGs. *Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy* is an interim document that requires input from across the country to develop a whole-of-Canada national strategy. The success of the 2030 Agenda depends on the ability to work together and inspire action to meet Canada’s commitment to leave no one behind throughout its implementation.

Canadians contribute to the SDGs through their day-to-day actions. Many, through their educational institutions, places of work, volunteering efforts and beyond, are helping to fulfill the 2030 Agenda by making a concerted effort to achieve sustainable development. However, more work needs to be done to coordinate our efforts.
ANNEX I
30 ACTIONS TO 2030

Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy proposes 30 concrete federal actions to advance progress on the 2030 Agenda framework and 30 national ambitions to achieve the 2030 Agenda in Canada. Canadians’ views and feedback on the actions below and the ambitions set out in Annex III are required to solidify a whole-of-Canada vision for 2030 and to collectively define our path forward.

1. Demonstrate leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda, both at home and abroad, by coordinating a whole-of-Canada national strategy for the 2030 Agenda and measuring progress made on the SDGs.

2. Align federal reporting mechanisms and support the integration of the SDGs into new and existing strategies, policies and programs across federal departments and agencies to increase policy coherence.

3. Develop training materials on the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for federal public servants across all departments and agencies.

4. Ensure diverse representation at the United Nations High-Level Political Forums from all levels of government, including the provinces and territories, Indigenous governments and peoples, communities, municipalities and cities.

5. Develop long-term inclusive engagement plans with Indigenous partners and communities, National Indigenous Organizations, Modern Treaty organizations and Indigenous self-governments to further implement the 2030 Agenda. Identify opportunities for collaboration and for integrating Indigenous perspectives, priorities and ways of knowing into the SDGs, support capacity building and increase awareness about the 2030 Agenda.

6. Foster collaboration with communities, cities and municipalities to further implement the 2030 Agenda locally, and support action to achieve the SDGs.

7. Share best practices and identify opportunities for collaboration and for localizing the SDGs across all levels of government and with communities and local organizations.

8. Work with partners on compelling storytelling and calls to action, and highlight stories of Canadians who are taking action on the SDGs from coast to coast to coast.

9. Support a national SDG Forum that brings together diverse stakeholders to discuss the 2030 Agenda and to collaborate on innovative approaches to advance progress on the SDGs in Canada.

10. Work in partnership with organizations and communities to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized groups are aware of and engaged in the 2030 Agenda.

11. Enable horizontal partnerships and collaboration that promote the sharing of best practices, ideas and experiences relating to the 2030 Agenda.

12. Leverage opportunities at key international and regional events and forums like the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the G7 and G20 summits and the OECD to share best practices in implementing the 2030 Agenda, showcase Canada’s efforts and collaborate with other countries to increase the impact of the SDGs and help build momentum.

13. Support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit-led research initiatives, protocols, and governance structures and partner with schools, universities, academic institutions and research networks to support research, development, resource sharing and youth engagement in the SDGs.
14. Establish a representative external advisory committee of experts to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Canada.

15. Support research in areas that help identify gaps in Canada’s efforts to meet the SDGs or improve the understanding of the social, economic and environmental needs of under-represented populations who are at risk of being left behind.


17. Advance data disaggregation and explore local or community-driven measurement to ensure the Framework reflects and monitors under-represented and marginalized groups.

18. Enhance data disaggregation and the recognition of Indigenous identity across the Canadian Indicator Framework to the extent possible, and enhance the future integration of Indigenous-owned, community-based data, building on work like the National Outcome-Based Framework’s development of Indigenous indicators of poverty, health and well-being.

19. Present a report that covers Canada’s national strategy regularly, and report annually to Canadians on progress made in the Global Indicator Framework.

20. Support independent review mechanisms and peer review processes as a means to enhance Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

21. Support sub-national reporting to highlight new and existing actions locally that are making progress on the SDGs.

22. Implement the 2030 Agenda with full regard for the rights of Indigenous peoples by protecting and promoting these rights, as reflected in the 10 Principles of Reconciliation, the TRC’s calls to action, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls’ calls to justice and the UNDRIP.

23. Consult with National Indigenous Organizations and Indigenous communities to ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented collaboratively and in ways that respect the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis to self-determination, and support participation in implementation, follow-up and review processes.

24. Raise awareness about Indigenous ways of knowing among all Canadians.

25. Support the development of resources that connect the past, present and future experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in Canada to the 2030 Agenda.

26. Enhance collaboration between different levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors and research communities, and support the development of new and innovative partnerships, approaches and breakthroughs to advance multiple SDGs.

27. Encourage philanthropic organizations, private sector firms and private investors to contribute to achieving the SDGs through opportunities for collaboration which could include: sustainable production and procurement processes; resource efficiency, clean energy and the regenerative use of natural resources; improved social protection for labour; the adoption of circular economic approaches, ESG-compliant investment in emerging and frontier markets; and corporate social responsibility initiatives.

28. Partner with organizations to encourage SDG implementation in the business community, including corporate social responsibility initiatives.

29. Engage with partners to develop, test and deploy innovative and flexible financing tools that will mobilize new investments to achieve the SDGs in Canada and abroad.

30. Measure the economics and the effectiveness of the impacts of successful SDG implementation, different resourcing requirements and potential types of funding.
To accelerate progress towards Canada’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the Minister of Children, Families and Social Development was appointed to lead Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda in close collaboration with all other ministers and their departments.

While the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development has the overall responsibility to lead Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Minister of International Development leads the advancement of Canada’s responsibilities and its commitments to the SDGs in terms of foreign policy and international development.

All federal ministers, departments and agencies are accountable for implementing the 2030 Agenda and supporting the development of the national strategy. This shared responsibility and collaboration across the Government of Canada will help to ensure that Canada’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda remains a focus from now until 2030.

**Goal 1: End poverty in all its form everywhere**
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Finance Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture**
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Global Affairs Canada

**Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Health Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Veterans Affairs Canada

**Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**
- Canadian Heritage
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Finance Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Veterans Affairs Canada
- Women and Gender Equality
### Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Infrastructure Canada
- Justice Canada
- National Defence
- Public Safety Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Transport Canada
- Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Women and Gender Equality

### Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Infrastructure Canada

### Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Global Affairs Canada
- Infrastructure Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada

### Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Canadian Heritage
- Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Finance Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

### Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Heritage
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Finance Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Infrastructure Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Transport Canada
- Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

### Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Finance Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Infrastructure Canada
- Veterans Affairs Canada
- Women and Gender Equality
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Canadian Heritage
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Finance Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Infrastructure Canada
- National Defence
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Safety Canada
- Transport Canada

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Finance Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Finance Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Natural Resources Canada

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- All departments

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
- All departments
ANNEX III

CANADIAN INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

The Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) contains a series of indicators developed by Statistics Canada in collaboration with the SDG Unit at Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and other federal departments. The CIF, which complements the Global Indicator Framework, will be used to measure progress on the different Canadian ambitions identified in Towards Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy.

The first iteration of the CIF proposes 30 ambitions, 60 federal indicators and many targets that span the SDGs. The ambitions proposed in this version of the CIF are intended to start a conversation on where Canada would like to be in 2030 with each SDG. They are also meant to identify and validate indicators and targets.

By establishing Canada’s ambitions, indicators and targets, Canada will be able to chart its path toward achieving each of the SDGs, assess progress, correct its course, identify gaps and propose concrete actions. It is important to note that the ambitions are meant to serve as guideposts. Partners are encouraged to use the indicators and targets that are relevant to their own respective realities.

The current CIF is the result of a review of the federal policies, strategies and initiatives related to all the SDGs and consultations with the departments and agencies involved. Each selected indicator is based on a clear methodology and evidence from existing reliable sources. Most of the data can be disaggregated, meaning it can be broken down into smaller subpopulations or subcategories, and it is available over several years, which will help identify regional disparities and vulnerable populations, and highlight major trends.

To ensure no one is left behind, the CIF will provide disaggregated data for many specific groups that are potentially vulnerable, including women, children, seniors, veterans, immigrants, members of visible minorities, single-parent households, people with low income, First Nations, Métis, Inuit, people with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ2 community.12

CIF indicators are interconnected. For example, the ambition whereby Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable growth will be measured beyond the gross domestic product (GDP) with indicators like the unemployment rate by group, the proportion of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET), the poverty rate and the rate of access to water, electricity and education.

The proposed selected targets are a starting point for identifying targets beyond the national level and that reflect local and community contexts. The CIF will aim to identify and include whole-of-Canada ambitions, indicators and targets supported by all Canadians.

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12 International Institute for Sustainable Development, Leaving No Canadian Behind: Measuring the well-being of vulnerable Canadians for effective SDG implementation.
**SELECTION CRITERIA**
As suggested in the document *Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals* produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the chosen indicators: (1) are limited in number and globally harmonized with the Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs; (2) are simple, with straightforward policy implications; (3) allow for high-frequency monitoring of data by reliable sources that can be disaggregated; (4) are outcome-focused and forward-looking; and (5) are representative to ensure that the diversity of the Canadian reality is fully captured.

Creating a framework of indicators requires considering a number of trade-offs, for example:

- **Completeness vs. simplicity:** Maintain a balance between the need to encompass everything that is relevant or important and having a framework that is too large and complex. If everything is considered a priority, nothing can truly be prioritized.

- **Relevance vs. comparability:** Maintain a balance between indicators that highlights different regional and specific issues and comparable indicators from coast to coast.

- **Static vs. adaptive:** Maintain a balance between a framework of indicators to track today’s progress to 2030 and a flexible framework that will incorporate important issues as they emerge.

- **Bottom-up vs. top-down:** Maintain a balance between a common but top-driven framework of indicators and a framework that incorporates the diversity of perspectives of different stakeholders.

**NEXT STEPS**
This first iteration of the CIF will be used to support further consultations with stakeholders. It is intended to start the conversation with Canadians on Canada’s level of ambition to achieve the SDGs and the appropriate targets and indicators to measure Canada’s progress.

Canadians are encouraged to help shape the CIF by sharing their views, ideas and perspectives. All stakeholders are encouraged to:

- provide feedback on whether the CIF accurately reflects Canada’s ambition in relation to the SDGs, including the opportunities, challenges, trade-offs and gap areas;

- validate and build upon the proposed ambitions, indicators and targets;

- identify local and community-driven measurements to complement existing indicator frameworks and data;

- advance data-disaggregation to ensure the Framework reflects and monitors underrepresented and marginalized groups; and,

CANADIAN INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

Goal 1: End poverty in all its form everywhere

Ambition
Reduce poverty in Canada in all its forms

Indicator
- Poverty rates based on Canada’s Official Poverty Line

Target
- 50% reduction in the poverty rate for 2015, by 2030

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Ambition
Canadians have access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food

Indicator
- Prevalence of food insecurity (moderate or severe)

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ambition
Canadians adopt healthy behaviours

Indicators
- Consumption of sugars, sodium, saturated fat, sugar-sweetened beverages, and fruits and vegetables by Dietary Reference Intakes, per category
- Prevalence of tobacco use
- Average minutes of physical activity per day
- Proportion of the population that is overweight or obese according to their body mass index, by category

Targets
- Percentage of Canadians aged 15 years and over who consume tobacco is less than 5% by 2035
- Physical activity: Early years (1–4) 180 minutes per day, children and youth (5–17) 60 minutes per day, adults (18–64) 21 minutes per day, seniors (65+) 21 minutes per day

Ambition
Canadians have healthy and satisfying lives

Indicators
- Life expectancy, total and health-adjusted
- Mean life satisfaction rating (1–10) of Canadians
- Self-assessment physical health, mental health and level of stress

Ambition
Canada prevents causes of premature death

Indicators
- Vaccination rate, by disease
- Prevalence of certain diseases, by disease
- Incidence of the 10 leading causes of death, by cause

Target
- By 2025, 95% coverage all childhood vaccines; 90% coverage all adolescent vaccines, 80% coverage flu vaccine; 80% coverage 65+ years pneumococcal vaccine
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Ambition**
Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives

**Indicators**
- Proportion of adults who have a high school diploma or equivalent, by age group
- Post-secondary completion rate (25 to 64 years old), by type of diploma

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Ambition**
Canadians are well represented at all levels of decision making

**Indicators**
- Proportion of seats held by different groups, including women, in national, provincial, territorial and local (municipal and First Nations Band Councils) governments
- Proportion of applications and appointments of federally appointed judges from different groups, including women
- Proportion of employees in management positions (including Board of Directors) who are from different groups, including women, by management level

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Ambition**
Canadians have access to drinking water and use it in a sustainable manner

**Indicators**
- Number of boil water advisories and long-term drinking water advisories affecting First Nations water systems, by type
- Average daily use of residential potable water, per capita

**Targets**
- By March 31, 2021, all of the long-term drinking water advisories on public systems on reserve are to be resolved
- Promote the conservation and wise use of water to achieve a 30% reduction or increased efficiency in water use in various sectors by 2025

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Ambition**
Canadians reduce their energy consumption

**Indicator**
- Energy consumption and annual energy savings resulting from adoption of energy efficiency codes, standards and practices

**Target**
- By 2030, 600 petajoules of total annual energy savings will be achieved as a result of adoption of energy efficiency codes, standards and practices from a baseline savings of 27.4 petajoules in 2017 to 2018
Ambition
Canadians have access to clean and renewable energy

Indicators
- Non-GHG emitting energy share, final energy consumption and electricity generation
- Number of renewable energy projects in remote communities and remote industrial sites

Target
- By 2030, 90% and in the long term, 100% of Canada’s electricity is generated from renewable and non-emitting sources

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Ambition
Canadians have access to quality jobs

Indicators
- Unemployment rate
- Average hourly wage and gaps between groups
- Proportion of youth (aged 18-24 years) not in education, employment or training

Ambition
Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable economic growth

Indicator
- GDP per capita

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Ambition
Canada fosters sustainable research and innovation

Indicator
- Number of Intellectual Property filings (Patents, Trademarks, Industrial Designs, and Copyrights), granted and registered annually

Ambition
Canadians have access to modern and sustainable infrastructures

Indicators
- Percentage of households that have access to fixed broadband Internet access services
- Percentage of population that has access to the latest generally deployed mobile wireless technology

Target
- By 2021, 90% Canadian homes and small businesses have access to speeds 50+ Mbps download, 10 Mbps upload and unlimited data

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Ambition
Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced

Indicators
- Proportion of people living below 50% of median income
- Gini Coefficient before and after tax and transfers and share of total after-tax income held by 40 percent of the population at the bottom of the income distribution
- Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed, by type
**Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

**Ambition**
Canadians have access to quality housing

**Indicators**
- Proportion of the population who use emergency shelters
- Proportion of households in core housing need, by type of need

**Target**
- Reduce chronic homelessness by 50% by fiscal year 2027-2028

**Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

**Ambition**
Canadians consume in a sustainable manner

**Indicators**
- Proportion of new light duty vehicle sales that are zero-emission vehicles
- Ecological footprint per capita

**Target**
- Zero-emission vehicles represent 10% of new light duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2040

**Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**Ambition**
Canadians reduce their GHG emissions

**Indicator**
- GHG Emissions

**Target**
- By 2030, reduce Canada’s total greenhouse gas emissions by 30%, relative to 2005 emission levels; greenhouse gases in PSPC Crown-owned building portfolio, excluding housing, by March 31, 2030

**Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**Ambition**
Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks

**Indicators**
- Canada’s protected and conserved marine areas
- Status of major fish stocks

**Targets**
- By 2020, 10% of coastal and marine areas are conserved through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures
- All major fish and invertebrate stocks are managed and harvested at levels considered to be sustainable, starting at 96% in 2016, by 2020
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Ambition
Canada ensures all species have a healthy and viable population

Indicators
- Status of wild species
- Canadian Species Index

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Ambition
Canadians are safe and secure, in person and online

Indicators
- Proportion of the population who reported feeling safe walking alone in the area that they live
- Crime severity index, by category
- Incidence of certain types of crime: cybercrimes, homicides, hate crimes, sexual abuse before the age of 18, and physical, sexual, or psychological violence by current or previous partners, by offense

Ambition
Canadians have equal access to justice

Indicators
- Criminal Court case completion time, by type
- Prison population, total and unsentenced
- Proportion of Canadians with a serious legal problem who were able to resolve the problem

Ambition
Canadians are supported by effective, accountable, and transparent institutions

Indicator
- Percentage of population who reported having trust in public institutions, by type of institution

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Ambition
Canada fosters collaboration and partnerships to advance the SDGs

Indicators
- Number of open datasets published by the Government of Canada
- Total official support for sustainable development, in Canadian dollars, by type