



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Cat. No.: CR1-22E-PDF
ISSN: 2817-5131

Unless otherwise specified, you may not reproduce materials in this publication, in whole or in part, for the purposes of commercial redistribution without prior written permission from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's copyright administrator. To obtain permission to reproduce Government of Canada materials for commercial purposes, apply for Crown Copyright Clearance by contacting:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
125 Zaida Eddy Private, 2nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1R 0E3

Telephone: 1-855-275-2861
Email: corporate-performance@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
Website: [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#)

Cover photo: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, 2023

Aussi disponible en français

SECTION 1

Introduction to the Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy

The [2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy \(FSDS\)](#) presents the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, as required by the [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#). This is the first FSDS to be framed using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and provides a balanced view of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

In keeping with the purpose of the Act—to make decision-making related to sustainable development more transparent and accountable to Parliament—the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) supports the goals laid out in the FSDS through the activities described in this Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS).



The [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#) sets out [seven principles](#) that must be considered in developing the FSDS as well as DSDSs. These basic principles have been considered and incorporated in SSHRC's DSDS.

To promote coordinated action on sustainable development across the Government of Canada, this departmental strategy integrates efforts to advance Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda National Strategy, supported by the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets and indicators. The strategy also now captures SDG initiatives that fall outside the scope of the FSDS to inform the development of Canada's Annual Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

SECTION 2

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Sustainable Development Vision

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports research and research training in the humanities and social sciences. SSHRC strategically supports world-leading initiatives that reflect a commitment to ensuring a better future for Canada and the world. Through grants, fellowships and scholarships, SSHRC helps Canada's researchers train the next generation of talented, creative thinkers and leaders; builds knowledge and understanding about people, communities, cultures and societies; and drives the innovations that address global challenges of today and tomorrow.

SSHRC also oversees the delivery of several large programs that support interdisciplinary research and strengthen the overall research environment. SSHRC administers these programs through the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) on behalf of the three federal research granting agencies: SSHRC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). We work closely with the other granting agencies, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and members of the broader research ecosystem to advance collaboration across Canada's research funding system.

SSHRC contributes to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development through its programs and related activities. Recognizing the important contribution social sciences and the humanities, as well as interdisciplinary research, make to addressing complex global challenges, SSHRC delivers essential research, talent and knowledge mobilization programs and initiatives that help advance the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#). They also further the Government of Canada's commitments set out in the [2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy](#) (FSDS). Such efforts include, for example, responding to the human elements of pressing environmental issues and climate change adaptation, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion in and through research and research training.

Research is at the forefront of transformative agendas such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through its three main programs—Insight Research, Research Training and Talent Development, and Research Partnerships—SSHRC supports postsecondary based research, research training and knowledge mobilization activities on a broad range of sustainable development topics. Through studies in areas such as ecological economies, sustainable behaviour, vulnerability and adaptation, and environmental ethics, researchers in the social sciences and humanities produce and share new knowledge that is needed to realize the United Nations SDGs. As many of these goals require multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, SSHRC also contributes to their advancement by supporting and administering large tri-agency programs, such as the New Frontiers in Research Fund, the Canada First Excellence Research Fund and the Canada Excellence Research Chairs.

More than ever, society is looking to the social sciences and humanities to help understand and address significant global challenges. SSHRC's [Imagining Canada's Future](#) initiative mobilizes social sciences and humanities research and talent to address future and emerging societal challenges for Canada and help guide decision making across all sectors. In 2018, SSHRC partnered with Policy Horizons Canada on a comprehensive horizon-scanning exercise to identify [16 future global challenges](#) that may have a major impact on Canada in the next decade. Many of these global challenges—Building Better Lives Across the Gender Spectrum, Living Within Earth's Carrying Capacity, and the Shifting Dynamic of Privilege and Marginalization, for example—are the focus of SSHRC's knowledge synthesis and mobilization activities and intersect with the goals of the 2022 to 2026 FSDS. SSHRC develops and implements strategies and knowledge mobilization activities to enhance the contribution social sciences and humanities make to addressing these challenges, as well as other emerging priority issues across government departments and agencies, such as that of Informing Best Practices for Environmental Impact Assessments. In addition, [evidence briefs](#) or [summary reports](#) highlight gaps in current knowledge on related topics, which can then be further explored. The most recent challenge area, [Global Health and Wellness in the 21st Century](#), is being explored through an initiative in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Genome Canada.

This Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS) sets out SSHRC's plan for contributing to the achievement of the following 2022 to 2026 FSDS goals, for which the minister of Innovation, Science and Industry is responsible.

Goal 4: Promote knowledge and skills for sustainable development

SSHRC is committed to supporting the next generation of researchers and promoting knowledge and skills for sustainable development. Through its grants, scholarships, fellowships and partnerships, SSHRC offers valuable research training opportunities for students and postdoctoral fellows, which help them prepare for research careers in and outside academia. It also supports researchers in producing and sharing knowledge that will benefit Canada's environment, society and economy.

Goal 10: Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and take action on inequality

The global knowledge ecosystem is enriched by a collaborative, interdisciplinary, sustainable and inclusive approach. Within this ecosystem, SSHRC is supporting Indigenous participation and expertise and is working closely with Indigenous advisory bodies to build new models for Indigenous research and research training. We are also committed to increasing equitable and inclusive participation in the research ecosystem and to promoting the integration of equity, diversity and inclusion considerations into all aspects of research.

Goal 12: Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles

SSHRC is contributing to the advancement of greening government actions and the FSDS goal of reducing waste by decreasing the environmental impacts of its operations and internal services. SSHRC supports this goal through several initiatives such as employee training and awareness and by implementing procurement practices that minimize the environmental impact of our operations.

Goal 13: Take action on climate change and its impacts

SSHRC is committed to greening its operations and to supporting the science that will help identify solutions to the climate crisis. The agency has identified a variety of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to climate-resilient operations, including the adoption of a hybrid work model and more sustainable travel practices.

SSHRC's contribution to these four goals is detailed in the following sections.

SECTION 3

Listening to Canadians

As required by the *Federal Sustainable Development Act*, SSHRC has considered comments on the draft 2022 to 2026 FSDS made during the public consultation held from March 11 to July 9, 2022.

During the public consultation, more than 700 comments were received from a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, Indigenous organizations, non-governmental organizations, academics, businesses and individual Canadians in different age groups and of various backgrounds. The draft FSDS was also shared for review and comment with the appropriate committee of each House of Parliament, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Advisory Council.

Across the submissions received, SSHRC identified sustainable development priorities and issues that affect us and took them into consideration in developing its first DSDS. For example, comments addressed the need for more research on the transition to sustainable consumption and production-based economy, as well as on the impacts of climate change on vulnerable and marginalized communities. SSHRC can help address these issues by continuing to financially support research on a wide range of sustainable development, climate change and environmental topics through its regular programming and through other special collaborative initiatives, such as the [2023 International Initiative for Research on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#). This initiative aims to further the design and implementation of co-produced adaptation and mitigation strategies for vulnerable groups—those most affected by the effects of climate change because of physical and socio-economic vulnerability. This initiative, which brings together nine international partners, has the potential to improve lives of people around the globe.

Comments also highlighted the need to support more training and skills development in sustainable development to enable the transition to a low-carbon economy. SSHRC recognizes this need and is committed to providing opportunities to foster the development of talented and creative people across society. By financially supporting students, postdoctoral researchers and highly qualified personnel, both through scholarships and fellowships and

through grants to researchers, SSHRC helps develop talent and research skills in the social sciences and humanities, including in key areas related to sustainable development. The implementation strategy “Support youth skill development in environmental sectors” under Goal 4 – Quality Education further describes how SSHRC’s support to research trainees helps Canada develop a talented workforce equipped with environmental and sustainable development knowledge and skills.

Finally, several comments led to a recommendation to further recognize distinctions-based Indigenous perspectives, the importance of Indigenous rights and knowledge, and the need for capacity building and funding for meaningful engagement. SSHRC fully endorses this recommendation and has long been committed to supporting research by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. SSHRC will continue to support Indigenous research and research training across all its funding opportunities, while respecting the value of Indigenous Knowledge systems. SSHRC will also pursue its commitment to Indigenous research and reconciliation through [the Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity initiative](#) and a diversity of initiatives and activities, guided by the Indigenous Leadership Circle for Research and its own Indigenous Advisory Circle, respectively. Through collaboration and co-development, the Circle provides guidance to advance reconciliation through Indigenous research and talent development programming. More information about these initiatives can be found under Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities.

For more information about the FSDS public consultation and its results, see the [FSDS Consultation Report](#).

SECTION 4

SSHRC's Commitments





GOAL 4: PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FSDS Context:

SSHRC acknowledges that education, particularly in the social sciences and humanities and interdisciplinary studies, is a crucial driver of progress toward sustainable development. Addressing today's and tomorrow's complex challenges requires both technical solutions and knowledge from the social sciences and humanities to better understand the behavioural, social, cultural and historical factors that come into play. Social sciences and humanities research helps us understand ourselves, others, and how human behaviour shapes the world around us.

Supporting student skills development

Ensuring quality education and promoting learning opportunities for Canadians of all ages are essential for Canada's economic and social prosperity, and for the well-being of all Canadians. In support of SDG 4 and to ensure access to quality education and lifelong learning for all Canadians, SSHRC contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to promoting knowledge and skills for sustainable development. It does so directly by supporting the training of the next generation of researchers through scholarships and fellowships in the many social sciences and humanities disciplines related to sustainable development and, indirectly, through grants and research partnerships within targeted thematic initiatives. The funding opportunities SSHRC offers to students and fellows boost educational attainment rates and support the development of relevant skills for employment, including in the environmental, clean technology and clean economy sectors. Through a series of initiatives and programs, such as the [Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes—SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships Collaboration](#) and [Mitacs Elevate](#), SSHRC is also working with partners to offer students and fellows an enriched training experience, broaden their

opportunities, and intensify research partnerships across the different sectors. This supports the development of skills and knowledge while leveraging multisectoral expertise to address new global challenges.

Promoting knowledge on sustainable development through research partnerships

SSHRC also contributes to the Government of Canada’s commitment to produce new knowledge on sustainable development. Our grants and partnership programs help forge invaluable links between researchers and key partners in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors that can generate new perspectives on sustainable development, drive the growth of clean technologies and support the transition to a low-carbon economy. Scientific collaborations are essential to help understand the impact of unprecedented environmental change across the globe and address the critical challenges of our time. SSHRC acknowledges that funding research in key areas benefits Canada’s environment, society and economy. It is committed to delivering programs that enable researchers to fill knowledge gaps and create innovative solutions. SSHRC also administers several tri-agency programs that strengthen the country’s research ecosystem in areas that create long-term social and economic advantages for Canada. For example, the Canada First Research Excellence Fund is a unique institutional program that supports large-scale research programs establishing Canadian and international partnerships on a thematic area aligned with the [Government of Canada’s science, technology and innovation priorities](#). Our programs provide opportunities for Canadian researchers to collaborate on domestic and international science and technology initiatives that address climate-change and sustainability factors. They also prepare and empower those driven to contribute to the global discourse on sustainable development to deliver ground-breaking technologies and to provide essential data for decision making.

Making an impact: Spotlight on research
<p>The TRANSDisciplinary Education Collaboration for Transformations in Sustainability (TRANSECTS) will empower emerging scholars, professionals and practitioners to become sustainability change makers. It will do so through innovative and flexible intercultural, educational pathways that support academic and policy rigour, societal engagement and impact, and personal and community well-being. Over six years, the team of 36 scholars and practitioners and 24 partner organizations with hubs in Canada, Germany and South Africa will offer real-world, transdisciplinary research training experiences and reduce barriers to knowledge sharing between the Global North and South.</p> <p><i>SSHRC Partnership Grant, \$2.5 million, 2018-25 Maureen Reed, Project Director, University of Saskatchewan</i></p>

Target theme: Training and skills in sustainable development

Target: By December 2025, Canada’s pool of science talent grows by 175,000 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates. (Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry)¹

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
Support youth skill development in environmental sectors.	<p>Support students at every stage of study, help develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel in environmental sectors.</p> <p>Programs: Insight Research Research Training and Talent Development Research Partnerships New Frontiers in Research Fund Canada Biomedical Research Fund</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Funding allocated to support research trainees working on projects related to the environment and sustainable development per fiscal year.</p> <p>Starting point: \$13.5 million (3-year average)</p> <p>Target: Not applicable*</p>	<p>Through grants, scholarships and fellowships, SSHRC attracts, retains and develops the next generation of researchers.</p> <p>Through this departmental action, SSHRC contributes to the Government of Canada’s commitment to ensuring that Canadians have access to the quality education, training and skills they need to build an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future, as outlined in the Canada’s 2030 Agenda National Strategy.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 4.2.1 Post-secondary educational attainment rate. <i>GIF Target:</i> 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.</p>

* Note: As supporting research specifically in the environment and sustainable development is not part of SSHRC’s mandate, this indicator is for monitoring purpose only and no target has been established.

¹ While the target included in the 2022 to 2026 FSDS is specific to the STEM, SSHRC has been identified as a responsible organization contributing to the stated implementation strategy, which supports both the overall goal and the target.

Target theme: Research and knowledge sharing

Target: By 2025, Canada's Average Relative Citation (ARC) in natural sciences, engineering and life sciences ranks within the top 10 of OECD countries, increasing from a ranking of 18 in 2020. (Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry)²

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
Work with partners on sustainable development research initiatives.	Support team-led research projects on sustainable development. Program: Research Partnerships	<p>Performance indicator: Number of partners on research projects related to sustainable development per fiscal year.</p> <p>Starting point: 52 (3-year average)</p> <p>Target: Not applicable*</p> <p>Performance indicator: Non-academic partner funding for research projects related to sustainable development per fiscal year.</p> <p>Starting point: \$3,205,421 (3-year average)</p> <p>Target: Not applicable*</p>	<p>Through research partnerships, SSHRC supports research projects led by strong, complementary, collaborative teams that will generate new knowledge on sustainable development and accelerate the application of research results to create benefits for Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p> <p><i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives.</p> <p><i>CIF Indicator:</i> 4.2.1 Postsecondary educational attainment rate.</p> <p><i>GIF Target:</i> 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.</p>

* **Note:** As supporting research specifically in the environment and sustainable development is not part of SSHRC's mandate, these indicators are for monitoring purposes only and no target has been established.

² While the target included in the 2022 to 2026 FSDS relates to the natural sciences, engineering and life sciences, SSHRC has been identified as a responsible organization contributing to the stated implementation strategy, which supports both the overall goal and the target.



GOAL 10: ADVANCE RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TAKE ACTION ON INEQUALITY

FSDS Context:

Supporting Indigenous research and research training

Research excellence includes strengthening Indigenous self-determination, leadership and capacity in research and research training, and respecting the value of Indigenous Knowledge systems. SSHRC has long been committed to supporting research by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, and supports Indigenous research and research training across all its funding opportunities. With the guidance of its [Indigenous Advisory Circle](#), SSHRC created an [Indigenous Research Statement of Principles](#) and landmark resources to support and guide Indigenous research and talent, including [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#). Call to Action 65 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#) specifically called for SSHRC to establish a national research program to advance the understanding of reconciliation. SSHRC further engaged with Indigenous organizations to help guide its approach in responding to the call.

SSHRC is fulfilling its commitment to Indigenous research and reconciliation through a diversity of agency-led initiatives and activities, as well as through activities organized in collaboration with CIHR and NSERC. On behalf of the [Canada Research Coordinating Committee](#) (CRCC), SSHRC led the co-development of a strategic plan to identify new ways of doing research by and with Indigenous communities and to advance new models of support for Indigenous research and research training. [Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada](#) was launched in 2020 and sets out four directions to strengthen the capacity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to lead their own research and partner with the broader research community. The strategic plan seeks to further build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, Inuit and

Métis Peoples; support the research priorities of Indigenous Peoples; increase access for Indigenous Peoples to agencies' program funding; and champion Indigenous leadership, self-determination and capacity building in research. This includes supporting the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research and co-developing, with Indigenous advisory bodies, a framework to support self-identification of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in tri-agency programs. The Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research works to support implementation and monitoring of the strategic plan. Through ongoing engagement with Indigenous Peoples, SSHRC and its CRCC partners will implement an interdisciplinary research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation.

Indigenous research is also integrated into the [Future Challenge Areas](#) being addressed through SSHRC's [Imagining Canada's Future](#) initiative, particularly the question "[How are the knowledge systems, experiences and aspirations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples essential to building a successful shared future for all Canadians?](#)" This future challenge area includes issues and subquestions on topics such as Indigenous youth and employment; historical and modern treaties; Indigenous values, cultures and knowledge systems; and endangered languages and cultures. In addition, the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) (NCTR) and SSHRC [are partnering on a national research program to advance understanding of reconciliation](#). Through research on reconciliation and residential schools, done by and with Indigenous communities, the collaboration will leverage the skills and knowledge of both parties: NCTR's expertise and ability to safeguard the truths of Survivors, their families, communities and others affected by the residential school system; and SSHRC's role to promote and support research and training in the humanities and social sciences. Finally, SSHRC has recently developed and launched the Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative to offer additional financial support to Indigenous research trainees.

Equity, diversity and inclusion in research

Achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research enterprise is essential to generate excellent, innovative and impactful research. In recent years, SSHRC and the other federal research funding agencies have undertaken several initiatives to foster a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research ecosystem in Canada . Under the leadership of the CRCC, they have developed an action plan that will guide initiatives and decisions to contribute to a system-wide transformation. The [Tri-Agency Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2018-](#)

[2025](#) outlines measures to increase equitable and inclusive access to granting agency funding opportunities. It also details how the granting agencies can influence the achievement of an inclusive postsecondary research system and culture in Canada.

Recognizing that research results and outcomes are multifaceted and can reflect multiple types of knowledge and ways of knowing, SSHRC, along with the four other major Canadian federal research funders (CIHR, NSERC, the [Canada Foundation for Innovation](#) and [Genome Canada](#)), signed onto the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#). DORA is a global initiative that aims to address the negative consequences of unintended overuse of journal publication as a primary indicator of research output quality. It brings together research leaders around the world who are working to strengthen research excellence by ensuring robust, equitable and impactful measures for research assessment.

In 2021 SSHRC also created the [Advisory Committee to Address Anti-Black Racism](#) to advise it on ways to break down existing barriers, to ensure equitable access for Black scholars, and to amplify their voices and enhance their visibility in SSHRC research and research training programs. In response to the advisory committee's findings and recommendations, SSHRC is developing a strategic action plan to address anti-Black racism in the Canadian social sciences and humanities research enterprise. In addition, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC are delivering the new Black Scholars initiative through established scholarship and fellowship programs, which strengthens the research capacity of Black scholars and enriches Canadian research and innovation. Finally, through its new Accessibility Plan (2022), SSHRC will identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in both external-facing programs and policies and in internal-facing activities in compliance with the *Accessible Canada Act*.

Target theme: Advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

Target: Between 2023 and 2026, and every year on an ongoing basis, develop and table annual progress reports on implementing *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
<p>Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>.</p>	<p>Support Indigenous research and research training.</p> <p>Programs: Insight Research Research Training and Talent Development Research Partnerships New Frontiers in Research Fund Canada Biomedical Research Fund</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Starting point: 3.0% (2022-23)</p> <p>Target: At least 5% by 2027</p>	<p>SSHRC is committed to supporting and promoting research by Indigenous Peoples and to advancing research excellence by reducing systemic barriers and biases they experience. SSHRC is fulfilling its commitment to Indigenous research and reconciliation through a diversity of agency-led initiatives and activities, as well as through activities organized in collaboration with CIHR and NSERC.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. <i>GIF Target:</i> 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p>

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and take action on inequality” but is not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
Invest in targeted scholarships.	Support Black research trainees through targeted scholarships. Program: Research Training and Talent Development	Performance indicator: Percentage of research trainees supported through targeted scholarships who self-identify as Black. Starting point*: USRA: 0% CGS-M: 2.2% CGS-D: 2.7% PDF: 1.5% Target*: USRA: 100% CGS-M: 3.6% CGS-D: 5.0% PDF: 4.7%	This departmental action aligns with the 2022 to 2026 FSDS commitment to promoting equality for Black, racialized, and religious minorities, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and persons with disabilities. These targeted scholarships aim to support Canada’s Black students and postdoctoral researchers, and to increase the number and proportion of Black research trainees directly supported by the three federal granting agencies. This will contribute to strengthening the research capacity of Black scholars and enrich Canadian research and innovation and to making Canada’s research culture more equitable, diverse and inclusive. Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. <i>GIF Target:</i> 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

* The funds support Black scholars at the undergraduate, master’s, doctoral, postdoctoral stages through current funding opportunities: Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA), Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) – Master’s (M) and Doctoral (D) levels, Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
Other	<p>Increase equitable and inclusive access to research funding.</p> <p>Program: All</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as women. Starting point: 58.6% (2022-23) Target: At least 51% by 2027</p> <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as members of racialized minorities. Starting point: 21.8% (2022-23) Target: At least 26% by 2027</p> <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as persons with a disability. Starting point: 9.0% (2022-23) Target: At least 22%</p>	<p>This departmental action aligns with the 2022 to 2026 FSDS commitment to promoting equality for Black, racialized and religious minorities, 2SLGBTQI+ communities and persons with disabilities. SSHRC is committed to advancing research excellence through ongoing efforts to reduce the systemic barriers and biases experienced by women, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, members of racialized minority groups, and other members of underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>To improve access to research support for underrepresented and disadvantaged groups, SSHRC must have accurate data on who is participating in and receiving funding from our programs. SSHRC collects self-identification information from individuals participating in funding opportunities to monitor the equity performance of its programs and, ultimately, as needed, design measures that achieve greater EDI.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. <i>GIF Target:</i> 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p>



GOAL 12: REDUCE WASTE AND TRANSITION TO ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

FSDS Context:

Supporting the transition to a net-zero, circular economy

SSHRC contributes the Government of Canada's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and transitioning to a circular economy by implementing practices within its internal services that reduce the environmental impact of its infrastructure. In compliance with the [Policy on Green Procurement](#) (the *Policy*) and in support of the whole-of-government effort to promote environmental stewardship, SSHRC is fulfilling its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint by greening its acquisition operations. By adhering to the policy, SSHRC contributes to its expected results, which include leveraging the federal government's purchasing power to achieve economies of scale when acquiring environmentally preferable goods and services; adopting more environmentally responsible planning, acquisition, use and disposal practices in the federal government; supporting a healthier workplace for employees and for citizens in general by purchasing environmentally preferable goods and services; and creating a federal government that is resilient to climate change. In keeping with the *Policy's* objectives and in response to the [Greening Government Strategy](#), SSHRC continues to integrate environmental performance considerations into its procurement processes and to play an active role in promoting sustainable production and consumption. SSHRC also acknowledges that reducing plastic pollution and its impacts is a global priority. As such, it supports the Canada-wide [Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste](#), which promotes a circular economy in which plastic products and materials can be reused, remanufactured or recycled. Informed by the Strategy, the agency continues to implement procurement processes that reduce plastic pollution and waste.

In the last 12 years, SSHRC has taken the following steps to green its operations:

- promoting the use of standing offers for goods and furniture that support the *Policy*;

- meeting with internal clients to review their yearly needs; challenging them to reduce consumption; and confirming that the volume requested is actually required;
- encouraging internal client groups to consider greener products and to share documents digitally (to reduce the use of paper, postage and courier services);
- advocating for the purchase or rental of recycled or reused material before acquiring goods;
- increasing awareness of the policy and green procurement practices among managers and materiel and procurement specialists.

Through these initiatives, SSHRC has ensured that 100% of its procurement specialists received the necessary training on the policy's requirements, enabling them to integrate environmental considerations in their decision-making processes. SSHRC also uses copy paper and commercial printing resources that contain 100% recycled material and are certified to a recognized environmental standard to reduce the environmental burden of their production. Moreover, the agency minimizes packaging waste and the use of paper documents (such as invoices) by incorporating environmental criteria in its contracts. This effort has the additional benefit of raising awareness among suppliers and motivating them to reduce their environmental impact.

Moving forward, SSHRC will continue to support relevant policies through additional initiatives, including further incorporating green criteria into its procurement operational documents and raising further awareness on green acquisition practices among employees through training. The first strategy will incorporate green criteria into the procurement's statement of requirements and other procurement documents. This serves multiple purposes: it allows the organization to promote sustainable procurement practices, meet regulatory requirements and drive innovation. By setting clear expectations for green performance in its procurement documents, SSHRC will encourage suppliers to develop and offer innovative, environmentally friendly products and services. This will drive market transformation and enable the agency to access and adopt sustainable solutions that align with environmental goals. The second strategy, centred on employee education, involves embedding an overview of the key principles, procedures and benefits of green procurement in SSHRC's in-house training. The training will explore topics like defining green procurement, understanding sustainable supplier selection, and implementing practices that promote environmentally friendly and sustainable behaviours.

Target: The Government of Canada’s procurement of goods and services will be net-zero emissions by 2050, to aid the transition to a net-zero, circular economy. (All ministers)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
Strengthen green procurement criteria,	Integrate environmental considerations into procurement management processes and controls, Program: Internal Services	Performance indicator: Percentage of in-house procurement documents implementing the <i>Policy on Green Procurement</i> requirements. Starting point: 75% in 2023 Target: 100% by 2027	Integrating environmental considerations into the procurement decision-making process is expected to result in more environmentally responsible acquisition practices and an overall reduction of the environmental impact of SSHRC’s infrastructure. Implementing measures that prevent and reduce waste will support this goal and the government’s commitment toward a circular economy, Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 12.2.1 Proportion of businesses that adopted selected environmental protection activities and management practices. <i>GIF Target:</i> 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
	<p>Provide all relevant employees and suppliers the necessary tools to support green procurement practices.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of all relevant procurement contracts that incorporate green procurement considerations through a “Statement of Requirement” clause. Starting point: New initiative Target: 100% by 2027</p> <p>Performance indicator: Percentage of procurement and/or materiel management specialists who have completed the Canada School of Public Service Green Procurement course (COR405) or equivalent. Starting point: 100% in 2023 Target: Maintain a 100% course completion rate between 2024 and 2027.</p>	<p>Employee training and contract stipulations are two tools that can encourage sustainable consumption and production. Green procurement incorporates environmental criteria into purchasing decisions. Procurement specialists who are trained to apply such criteria can award contracts while taking environmental considerations into account. Accordingly, they are expected to purchase green goods and services.</p> <p>By monitoring employee purchasing behaviour and clearly defining expectations for green procurement contracts, SSHRC will encourage suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of their goods, services and supply chains.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 12.2.1 Proportion of businesses that adopted selected environmental protection activities and management practices. <i>GIF Target:</i> 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.</p>



GOAL 13: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

FSDS Context:

Supporting research on climate change

Through the research it funds, SSHRC increases our understanding of and abilities to address global challenges such as climate change. Social sciences and humanities researchers are investigating and shedding light on the human elements of pressing environmental issues and climate change adaptation. Their research is leading to solutions and contributing to shaping a positive future for Canadians and the world. SSHRC also leads and participates in several international and collaborative research initiatives that aim to address global challenges caused by climate change. For example:

- Under the International stream of the interdisciplinary New Frontiers in Research Fund and on behalf of the three federal granting agencies, SSHRC is delivering in the [2023 International Initiative for Research on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#), a multilateral initiative involving nine international funding partners. This highly impactful call will provide \$100 million over three years to fund a portfolio of international projects to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies with groups that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

- SSHRC is participating in a decarbonization project under the [Global Centers initiative](#) led by the U.S. National Science Foundation. This collaborative effort of the National Science Foundation, SSHRC, NSERC, Australia’s Commonwealth Science and Innovation Research Organization, and UK Research and Innovation will support the creation of international hubs of research excellence on the themes of climate change and clean energy that advance knowledge, empower communities and generate discovery and innovative solutions on a regional and/or global scale.
- Responding to the call for action toward sustainable agriculture to fight climate change, SSHRC, in collaboration with NSERC and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, will provide funding through the [Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative](#) for fundamental and applied research, knowledge transfer, and related activities to support transformative science that will transition the agricultural sector to a net-zero emissions economy by 2050. Through this funding, the agencies will seek to catalyze multidisciplinary collaborations among university, college, government and non-academic partners in this area.
- Finally, the Canada First Research Excellence Fund and the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program both support research initiatives in two [Government of Canada’s science, technology and innovation priorities](#) related to climate change: Sustainable Food Systems and Clean and Resource-Rich Canada.

Making an impact: Spotlight on research
Funded through the Canada First Excellence Research Fund, the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative is a unique partnership, co-led and co-developed by Memorial University and the Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada, to address and respond to concerns about Arctic shipping and related environmental impacts affecting Northern communities. It will develop robust and innovative ship design and operation technologies, as well as surrounding policy and governance to position Canada and Inuit as world leaders in Arctic shipping.

SSHRC will continue to explore multilateral and partnership funding opportunities, as well as fund basic research through our core programing, in fields relevant to climate change.

Greening SSHRC’s operations

SSHRC is also modernizing its workplace, systems and operations to create a work environment that is both socially and environmentally sustainable. SSHRC recently moved to a new location in the National Capital Region, joining one of the most sustainable communities in Canada. The development is committed to reducing its ecological footprint by

following and applying the guiding principles of the [One Planet Living](#) sustainability framework and developing its own action plan. Because environmental sustainability is an essential pillar of that plan, this new community relies entirely on zero-carbon energy sources for its operations, including SSHRC's new headquarters. This is being achieved by creating a district energy system focused on ensuring that all energy needs are satisfied on a net-zero carbon basis. The community also emphasizes sustainable transport options through a network of bike lanes and walking paths, public transit, car-sharing locations and electric vehicle charging points.

Through its Workplace Renewal initiative, SSHRC is embracing additional green practices, such as a digital-first policy. Moreover, the transition to a hybrid working model has provided SSHRC with a renewed opportunity to evaluate the environmental footprint of its professional output. This, paired with its new headquarters' commitment to sustainable practices, is keeping SSHRC focused on supporting a greener workplace. In addition, the agency is developing its first business continuity plan to ensure it is well positioned to respond to disruptions, such as those caused by natural disasters and other impacts of climate change. Through these measures, SSHRC will play a leadership role in supporting the [Greening Government Strategy](#) and the Government of Canada's commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 2050.

Target theme: Federal Leadership on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and Climate Resilience

Target: The Government of Canada will transition to net-zero carbon operations for facilities and conventional fleets by 2050. (All ministers)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS
<p>Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience and green the government's overall operations.</p>	<p>Implement electronic disposition plans to reduce the data storage space used in the agencies' systems that manage information and data*</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Data storage space containing the agencies' electronic information and data*</p> <p>Starting point: 15 TB in 2023</p> <p>Target: 8 TB in 2027</p>	<p>With the transition to a digital-first work environment, SSHRC must consider how to responsibly manage electronic data and information and reduce e-waste. The goal is to limit the carbon footprint associated with data storage. SSHRC is putting good practices in place to ensure that the information and data it creates and stores while conducting its activities are managed in a way that limits any negative environmental impact.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: <i>CIF Ambition:</i> Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. <i>CIF Indicator:</i> 13.1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions. <i>GIF Target:</i> 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p>

* This initiative and the data reported are for both SSHRC and NSERC as the two agencies share some administrative services and systems, including information management.

SECTION 5

Integrating Sustainable Development

SSHRC will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets, including—where appropriate—through the implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs).

As required by the [Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals](#), a SEA is conducted for a policy, plan or program proposal that, when implemented, could result in important environmental effects and includes an analysis of the impacts of the given proposal on the environment. The SEA process is one of the tools through which the FSDS is further integrated in the government’s decision making: it helps ensure that the environment is considered when developing proposals, while also reporting on how those proposals contribute to the goals and targets of the FSDS.

SEA results are communicated through public statements. The purpose of these statements is to show that the environmental effects, including the impacts on achieving the FSDS goals and targets of the approved policy, plan or program, have been considered during proposal development and decision making.



Although SSHRC has never launched an initiative that required a SEA, the agency complies with the *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals*, where applicable, and continues to ensure that its decision-making processes include considerations of FSDS goals and targets.

One way in which SSHRC is further integrating sustainable development in its operations is by complying with the [Impact Assessment Act](#). The agency has established [Guidelines on Impact Assessment](#) to ensure that SSHRC-funded research, whether conducted inside or outside of Canada, fosters sustainability and protects the environment from adverse effects. This includes considerations of health, social and economic components. The guidelines also require consideration of the potential impacts on Indigenous and treaty rights. In so doing, the guidelines foster respect for Indigenous Peoples in support of reconciliation in Canada. The guidelines allow SSHRC to incorporate environmental and sustainable development considerations into its funding decisions and ensure that agency-supported project proposals contribute to the FSDS and foster the principles of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.