

## Reporting on Green Procurement

### Context

WD is bound by the [\*Federal Sustainable Development Act\*](#) and was required to develop a 2020 to 2023 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS). WD has developed its corresponding 2021–22 DSDS Report, including applicable reporting on green procurement activities. This report can be found on [WD's website](#).

## Details on transfer payment programs of \$5 million or more

### Western Diversification Program (Voted)

Start date	December 3, 1987
End date	Ongoing
Type of transfer payment	Contribution and Grant
Type of appropriation	Appropriated annually through Estimates
Fiscal year for terms and conditions	2018-19
Link to departmental result(s)	Departmental Results: Businesses, Communities, Technologies
Link to the department's Program Inventory	Programs: Innovation, Business Growth, Business Services, Community Initiatives
Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program	The Western Diversification Program (WDP) contributes to the department's mandate to promote economic development and diversification in western Canada and advance the West's interests in national policy, program and project development and implementation. Contributions to not-for-profit organizations are non-repayable; contributions to western Canadian commercial projects or for-profit organizations may be repayable.
Results achieved	<p>Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) has developed a Performance Measurement Framework that includes performance indicators, expected results, and data sources to capture results achieved under the WD's Departmental Results Framework (DRF). Key results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,129 jobs created (including 1,178 HQP jobs);</li> <li>• \$15.9 million in export sales;</li> <li>• \$5.0 million in business sales growth resulting from commercialization;</li> <li>• \$387.1 million in incremental private sector investment attracted; and,</li> <li>• \$5.1 million in business expenditures in research and development (BERD).</li> </ul> <p>For more information on results achieved, see the "Results: what we achieved" section in the main document and supplementary information on WD's Program Inventory.</p>
Findings of audits completed in 2021-22	WD's internal audit function has been transferred to the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG). All audits of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), including WD, will be conducted by OCG in accordance with their RDA Risk-Based Audit Plan (RBAP).

## WD's 2021-22 Departmental Results Report - supplementary tables

Findings of evaluations completed in 2021-22	There were no evaluations of the WDP completed in 2021-22.
Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2021-22	The WDP is delivered through a continuous intake process. Potential applicants and stakeholders were engaged through active outreach, media strategies and information provided on WD's public website.

### Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2019–20 Actual spending	2020–21 Actual spending	2021-22 Planned spending	2021-22 Total authorities available for use	2021–22 Actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2021–22 actual minus 2021-22 planned)
<b>Total grants</b>	0	0	5,750,000	0	0	(5,750,000)
<b>Total contributions</b>	112,934,024	130,242,298	130,316,777	133,642,236	120,774,875	(9,541,902)
<b>Total other types of transfer payments</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total program</b>	<b>112,934,024</b>	<b>130,242,298</b>	<b>136,066,777</b>	<b>133,642,236</b>	<b>120,774,875</b>	<b>(15,291,902)</b>
Explanation of variances	Actual spending in the Western Diversification Program decreased due to the conclusion of the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.					

### Community Futures (CF) Program (Voted)

Start date	May 18, 1995 (The Program started in 1986 and was previously delivered by Human Resources Development Canada).
End date	Ongoing
Type of transfer payment	Contribution
Type of appropriation	Appropriated annually through the Estimates
Fiscal year for terms and conditions	2010-11
Link to departmental result(s)	Departmental Results: Businesses and Communities
Link to the department's Program Inventory	Program: Business Services

## WD's 2021-22 Departmental Results Report - supplementary tables

<p><b>Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program</b></p>	<p>The CF Program was designed to help communities develop and implement local solutions to local problems. The program provides financial support to CF organizations, which are incorporated, not-for-profit organizations. CFs provide support to small and medium-sized enterprises and undertake community economic development initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Results achieved</b></p>	<p>Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) has developed a Performance Measurement Framework that includes performance indicators, expected results, and data sources to capture results achieved under WD's Departmental Results Framework (DRF).</p> <p>Key results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the latest available data from Statistics Canada<sup>1</sup>, western Canadian firms that accessed lending services through the WD-funded Community Futures (CF) program increased their sales by 8.43 percent and their employment growth by 7.98 percent annually, compared to non-CF clients whose sales increased by 3.14 percent and employment by 0.22 percent annually from 2014 to 2019; and</li> <li>• CFs provided 2,076 loans to rural businesses with a value of \$93.1 million that leveraged an additional \$53.8 million.</li> </ul> <p>For more information on results achieved, see the "Results: what we achieved:" section in the main document and supplementary information on WD's Program Inventory.</p>
<p><b>Findings of audits completed in 2021-22</b></p>	<p>WD's internal audit function has been transferred to the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG). All audits of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), including WD, will be conducted by OCG in accordance with their RDA Risk-Based Audit Plan (RBAP).</p>
<p><b>Findings of evaluations completed in 2021-22</b></p>	<p>The last evaluation for the Community Futures Program was completed in 2019-20. The next evaluation is scheduled for 2024-25.</p>
<p><b>Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2021-22</b></p>	<p>Eligible applicants for the CF Program are the CF Organizations. WD has a long-standing strategy of engaging with these organizations to build awareness of WD's programs among prospective applicants.</p>

<sup>1</sup> This analysis is conducted by Statistics Canada and commissioned by regional development agencies.

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2019–20 Actual spending	2020–21 Actual spending	2021–22 Planned spending	2021–22 Total authorities available for use	2021–22 Actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2021–22 actual minus 2021–22 planned)
<b>Total grants</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total contributions</b>	28,216,989	26,058,699	28,156,322	67,775,370	32,978,791	4,822,469
<b>Total other types of transfer payments</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total program</b>	<b>28,216,989</b>	<b>26,058,699</b>	<b>28,156,322</b>	<b>67,775,370</b>	<b>32,978,791</b>	<b>4,822,469</b>
<b>Explanation of variances</b>	Actual spending in the Community Futures program increased because of additional funds received to support resources related to the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.					

## Growth Through Regional Innovation Program (known as Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI))

Start date	October 18, 2018
End date	REGI - Ongoing WEF - March 31, 2020 WES Ecosystem Fund - March 31, 2023
Type of transfer payment	REGI - Grant and Contribution WES - Contribution
Type of appropriation	Appropriated annually through Estimates
Fiscal year for terms and conditions	2018-2019
Link to departmental result(s)	Departmental Results: Businesses, Communities, Technologies
Link to the department's Program Inventory	Programs: Innovation, Business Growth

<p><b>Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program</b></p>	<p>The Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI) Initiative builds on the objectives of the Innovation and Skills Plan. The goal of REGI is to provide streamlined, nationally coordinated, regionally tailored support for business productivity and scale-up, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), women and Indigenous entrepreneurs, and other under-represented groups. REGI will assist in the enhancement of regional industrial and technology clusters and regional innovation ecosystems.</p> <p>The program will provide assistance through two new program streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Scale-up and Productivity Stream (BSP): Invest in and support businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms to accelerate their growth and assist them in scaling up, and enhance their productivity and competitiveness in both domestic and global markets.</li><li>• Regional Innovation Ecosystems Stream (RIE): Create, grow and nurture inclusive regional ecosystems that support business needs and foster an entrepreneurial environment conducive to innovation, growth and competitiveness.</li></ul> <p>The Women Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) provides nationally coordinated, regionally tailored investments to help women entrepreneurs and support regional innovation ecosystems through two program streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WES Ecosystem Fund: A five-year program to help non-profit, third party organizations deliver support for women entrepreneurs and address gaps in the ecosystem.</li><li>• Pilot Contribution Program (Women Entrepreneurship Fund): A two-year program that invests directly in women-owned or women-led businesses to help them grow and reach new markets.</li></ul> <p>Contributions issued under REGI may be unconditionally or conditionally repayable, or non-repayable. Contributions issued under the WES are non-repayable only.</p>
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## WD's 2021-22 Departmental Results Report - supplementary tables

<b>Results achieved</b>	<p>Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) has developed a Performance Measurement Framework that includes performance indicators, expected results, and data sources to capture results achieved under WD's Departmental Results Framework (DRF).</p> <p>Key results include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8,417 jobs created (including 6,121 HQP jobs);</li> <li>• \$1.1 billion in export sales;</li> <li>• \$22.3 million in business sales growth resulting from commercialization; and,</li> <li>• 139 businesses created, maintained, or expanded (including 14 Indigenous-owned/led businesses, 20 youth-owned/led businesses, and 16 women-owned/led businesses).</li> </ul> <p>For more information, see the "Results: what we achieved" section in the main document.</p>
<b>Findings of audits completed in 2021-22</b>	WD's internal audit function has been transferred to the Office of the Comptroller General (OCG). All audits of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), including WD, will be conducted by OCG in accordance with their RDA Risk-Based Audit Plan (RBAP).
<b>Findings of evaluations completed in 2021-22</b>	No evaluations were completed in 2021-22. An evaluation of REGI and WES is scheduled for 2023-24.
<b>Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2021-22</b>	The REGI initiative and WES were delivered through continuous intake or call for proposals process. Potential applicants and stakeholders were engaged through active outreach, media strategies and information provided on WD's public website.

## Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2019–20 Actual spending	2020–21 Actual spending	2021–22 Planned spending	2021–22 Total authorities available for use	2021–22 Actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2021–22 actual minus 2021–22 planned)
<b>Total grants</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total contributions</b>	116,068,924	216,406,603	126,986,781	269,564,480	220,315,484	93,328,703
<b>Total other types of transfer payments</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total program</b>	<b>116,068,924</b>	<b>216,406,603</b>	<b>126,986,781</b>	<b>269,564,480</b>	<b>220,315,484</b>	<b>93,328,703</b>
<b>Explanation of variances</b>	Actual spending plans in Regional Economic Growth through Innovation increased because of additional funds received to support resources related to the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.					

# Gender-based analysis plus

## Section 1: Institutional GBA Plus Capacity

WD programs support businesses owned or majority-led by underrepresented groups, such as Indigenous peoples, women, youth, 2SLGBTQI+, persons with disabilities, newcomers to Canada and members of official language minority communities. Programming aims to increase participation of underrepresented groups in the economy by supporting businesses directly or through not-for-profit organizations by providing funding, business services, training and access to resources.

To enhance data collection and ensure consistency of gender and diversity data on all WD applicants, a diversity and inclusion section was added to all application forms. This allows WD to compile aggregate information for diverse groups on the ownership and/or leadership of the organizations applying to WD programs. From this data, WD could identify potential access issues, make evidence-based decisions, and monitor progress towards improved access to programs and services.

WD supports research and study of entrepreneurial data to identify gaps, and better understand unique challenges faced by certain under represented groups. This informs future program parameters and design.

WD commissioned The Centre for Innovation Studies to launch Global Entrepreneurship (GEM) studies across the West to better understand the unique challenges faced by women and youth in entrepreneurship. WD also invested in a GEM study on the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on entrepreneurship in Western Canada. In 2021-22, a renewed GEM study was initiated. Results and summary reports on women and youth in Western Canada as well as regional entrepreneurship in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, are expected in 2022-23.

## Section 2: Gender and Diversity Impacts, Program Results

**Core Responsibility:** Economic development in western Canada

**Program Name:** Business Growth, Business Services, Community Initiatives, Innovation

**Target Population:** Specific region (western Canada – British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) or sectors of the economy

**Distribution of Benefits:**

		First group	Second group	Third group	Fourth group	Fifth group	
By gender	Men			●			Women

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		<b>First group</b>	<b>Second group</b>	<b>Third group</b>	
<b>By age group</b>	<b>Youth</b>		●		<b>Senior</b>

### Key Program impacts on Gender and diversity:

<b>Statistics</b>	<b>Observed Results*</b>	<b>Data Source</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Number of jobs created for women	1,700	WD's internal systems	Observed results are self-reported (on a voluntary basis) to WD by its clients
Number of jobs created for youth	1,900	WD's internal systems	Observed results are self-reported (on a voluntary basis) to WD by its clients
Number of jobs created	220	WD's internal systems	Observed results are self-reported (on a voluntary basis) to WD by its clients

### Other Key Program impacts on gender and diversity:

In 2021-22, WD supported inclusive economic growth throughout western Canada, including focusing on creating economic opportunities for women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the department delivered targeted programming that directly benefited other under-represented groups, such as Black entrepreneurs, francophones, and entrepreneurs with disabilities. WD is continually improving its GBA+ practices to ensure that diversity and inclusion considerations are consistently used in decision-making.

### GBA Plus Data Collection Plan:

WD has successfully implemented a data collection exercise to collect diversity and inclusion parameters from applicants.

## Definitions

**Target Population :** See [Finance Canada definition of Target Group](#) in the User Instructions for the GBA Plus Departmental Summary)

### Gender Scale:

- First group: Predominantly men (e.g. 80 per cent or more men)
- Second group: 60 per cent - 79 per cent men
- Third group: Broadly gender-balanced
- Fourth group: 60 per cent - 79 per cent women
- Fifth group: Predominantly women (e.g. 80 per cent or more women)

### Income Level Scale:

- First group: Strongly benefits low income individuals (Strongly progressive)
- Second group: Somewhat benefits low income individuals (Somewhat progressive)

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- Third group: No significant distributional impacts
- Fourth group: Somewhat benefits high income individuals (Somewhat regressive)
- Fifth group: Strongly benefits high income individuals (Strongly regressive)

### **Age Group Scale :**

- First group: Primarily benefits youth, children and/or future generations
- Second group: No significant inter-generational impacts or impacts generation between youth and seniors
- Third group: Primarily benefits seniors or the baby boom generation

## **Response to parliamentary committees and external audits**

### **Response to parliamentary committees**

There were no parliamentary committee reports requiring a response in 2021-22.

### **Response to audits conducted by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (including audits conducted by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development)**

#### 1. 2021 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Parliament of Canada

Report 12 – Independent Auditor's Report: [Protecting Canada's Food System](#)

There is no dedicated chapter specific to the Canadian Seafood Stabilization Fund (CSSF) or to regional development agency (RDA) involvement. Report 12 is a comprehensive assessment encompassing multiple programs and departments. Findings, Recommendations and Responses for all programs are compiled in a single chapter.

WD did not provide a direct response to this audit, however department officials reviewed the joint response to the recommendations that was prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

WD and other regional development agencies were not directly implicated in the audit recommendations, which were directed at AAFC, DFO, and CIRNAC. WD officials noted at the time of the report's release:

- PacifiCan and PrairiesCan will cooperate with AAFC as needed, as the department leads in the completion of a national emergency preparedness and response plan.
- GBA+ and sustainability were assessed during the development and design phases of CSSF. RDAs will track and report against their regular suite of Departmental Results Framework Indicators, including GBA+ and sustainability measures.

#### 2. 2021 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada to the Parliament of Canada

Independent Auditor's Report: COVID-19 Pandemic [Report 14 - Regional Relief and Recovery Fund \(RRRF\)](#).

As part of a larger series of audits on the Government of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the OAG audited the RRRF via three proxy regional development agencies (RDAs):

## WD's 2021-22 Departmental Results Report - supplementary tables

FedDev, FedNor and WD. The audit focused on whether the selected RDAs designed, delivered, and managed the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) effectively and efficiently to support businesses and organizations through the pandemic. The OAG report concluded that the RRRF was successful in quickly providing support to thousands of businesses and organizations to ensure they remained viable.

The OAG made three recommendations for the Government of Canada in relation to the RRRF, which were focused on the themes of consistency, fairness, transparency and equity. These recommendations relate to the setting of targets for levels of support to under-represented groups, the adoption of practices to ensure programs are efficient, effective and fair, and the harmonization of processes to produce accurate results reporting.

The OAG audit was addressed in a formal Management Action Plan (MAP), and tabled with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts' (PACP) on April 5, 2022. WD expects to complete responding actions by March 2023.

Related information on this audit can also be found in the DRR's "Results: what we achieved" section [here](#).

### **Response to audits conducted by the Public Service Commission of Canada or the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages**

There were no audits in 2021–22 requiring a response.

## Up-front multi-year funding

### General information on up-front multi-year funding to Primrose Lake Economic Development Corporation (PLEDCo)

Recipient information	<a href="#">Primrose Lake Economic Development Corporation</a> (PLEDCo)
Start date	March 30, 2007
End date	Not applicable
Link to department's Program Inventory	Community Initiatives
Purpose and objectives of transfer payment	To assist and promote economic development in the communities within the Primrose Lake Area, and to enhance the long-term economic viability and sustainability of those communities.
Audit findings by the recipient during the reporting year, and future plan	No audits performed to date. The date for an audit in the future has not yet been identified.
Evaluation findings by the recipient during the reporting year, and future plan	An evaluation was completed in 2017-18 with no significant findings. The next evaluation will be completed in 2022-23.
Summary of results achieved by the recipient	During fiscal 2020-21, PLEDCO worked with regional partners to mitigate COVID-19 impacts and continued to invest in regional projects.
Total funding approved (dollars)	\$15,000,000
Total funding received (dollars)	\$15,000,000

### Financial information (dollars)

Planned spending in 2021–22	\$0
Total authorities available for use in 2021–22	\$0
Actual spending (authorities used) in 2021–22	\$0
Variance (2021–22 actual minus 2021–22 planned)	\$0
Explanation of variance	Not applicable