



Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord

2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (Updated January 2025)



Canada 

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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 Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) supports the goals laid out in the FSDS through the activities described in this Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS).

The [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#) also sets out [7 principles](#) that must be considered in the development of the FSDS as well as DSDSs. These basic principles have been considered and incorporated in CanNor's DSDS.

In order 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 the Canada's Annual Report on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Section 2: CanNor's Sustainable Development Vision

As the regional development agency for the North, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) has a key role in helping unlock business potential and helping develop key economic sectors, such as mining, tourism, fisheries, renewable energy, arts and culture; and supporting community and business development and Indigenous economic development. Because partnerships are central to CanNor's efforts to harness the full economic potential of the territories, CanNor works with

Northerners, Indigenous groups, communities, businesses, organizations, and other federal departments to help foster long-term economic sustainability in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon.

CanNor is uniquely positioned as an advocate for Northerners, and through its tailored suite of programming, provides short-, medium- and long-term investment for businesses and organizations to close gaps in economic and social prosperity, support the greening of energy and transportation systems, promote job creation and address food insecurity.

The Agency supports the 2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) by delivering programs that contribute to the priorities of greening the economy and inclusive growth, including those linked to clean technology and Indigenous economic reconciliation.

Section 3: Listening to Canadians

As required by the Federal Sustainable Development Act, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) has taken into account comments on the draft 2022-2026 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 with the appropriate committee of each House of Parliament, the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Sustainable Development Advisory Council for their review and comment.

What We Heard

Across the submissions received, CanNor identified sustainable development priorities and issues that affect us. These priorities include the following:

- Ensuring Food Security – Canadians noted the need for preparing for food insecurity at the sub-national levels and the importance of supporting community based sustainable approaches for resilient agriculture.
- Green Procurement – Canadians want to see the Government of Canada implement net-zero procurement to incentivize companies' voluntary engagement in the race to net zero.

What We Did

CanNor took the above-mentioned key priorities and issues into consideration in this DSDS.

CanNor takes into account the Government of Canada's commitment to achieving these goals in its strategic initiatives and activities.

CanNor's suite of economic development programs includes enhancing Indigenous and northern food security by supporting local, community-led projects that reduce dependence on the southern food industry for northern communities.

The Policy on Green Procurement supports the Government of Canada's effort to promote environmental stewardship. In keeping with the objectives of the policy, CanNor supports sustainable development by integrating environmental performance considerations into the procurement decision-making process.

Please find more information on the FSDS public consultation and its results in the [FSDS Consultation Report](#).

Section 4: Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's Commitments



Goal 2 Zero Hunger

Support a healthier and more sustainable food system

CanNor is the key federal player for developing a strong, diversified, sustainable, and resilient economy for Northerners, Indigenous peoples, communities, and businesses across the territories. In support of Canada's Food Policy, CanNor supports actions that strengthen the northern food sectors, including supporting the implementation of regional strategies and development of local producers and processors capacity (e.g. support for market development, facilities, and skills training) with the goal of increasing production and employment in the territories. This also contributes to and supports the implementation of the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework, which includes nurturing healthy families and communities as a priority.

The Northern Isolated Community Initiatives (NICI) Fund supports innovative, community-led projects for local and Indigenous food systems to help improve food security in Canada's territories. Through its three program streams, NICI enhances Indigenous and northern food security by supporting local, community-led projects that reduce dependence on the southern food industry for northern communities. In 2023-24, CanNor will be delivering the final phase of its innovative funding program, the

Northern Food Innovation Challenge, one of the streams of the NICI Fund. This challenge supports community-led projects for local and Indigenous food production to help enhance food security in the territories, with the goal of spurring innovation and highlighting new techniques. This includes social innovations or service delivery models as well as technologies to be adopted in Northern food systems. 2023-24 will mark the final year of the current NICI program, after which point CanNor will seek programs and strategies for continuing its work with other federal and territorial partners to support solutions to food insecurity in the territories.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal "**Support a Healthier and More Sustainable Food System**" but not a specific Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) target.

Implementation strategy: Enhancing Indigenous and Northern Food Security

Departmental action: Investments in Strengthening Northern Food Security

Continue to support innovative, community-led projects for local and Indigenous food systems to help improve food security in Canada's territories.

Performance indicator: Number of projects approved that improve food security

- Starting point: 10 projects in 2022-2023
- Target: 15 projects approved annually [Footnote 1](#)

How the departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal and target and, where applicable, to Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

The Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund (NICI) helps strengthen and support Indigenous and northern food systems in three territories by supporting community-led projects, with funding for equipment such as community freezers, greenhouses, local food production projects, and skills training for local and Indigenous food producers.

NICI has three program streams:

Stream 1A - (Support for Agriculture and Food Businesses) –supports agriculture and agri-foods SMEs, social enterprises and communities to undertake specific activities (e.g. introduction of alternative food delivery or storage methods) to enhance current and new business operations.

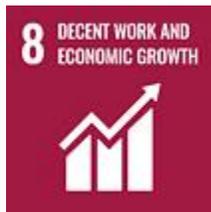
Stream 1B - (Northern Food Innovation Challenge) –supports the stages of the Northern Food Innovation Challenge. Strategies could include the identification; incubation; and testing of innovative ideas.

Stream 2 - (Support for Northern Food Working Group and Initiatives) –projects proposed by the territorial government Northern Food Working Group that support northern food security. Projects are complementary to funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Local Food Infrastructure Fund.

The Northern Isolated Community Initiatives Fund directly supports the Community Development Program of the Departmental Results Framework and the result of "People and communities participate in the economy of the territories".

Associated Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets or ambitions and/or Global Indicator Framework (GIF) targets:

- CIF Ambition: Canadians have access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food
- GIF Target:
 - 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, Indigenous Peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
 - 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality



Goal 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Canada

CanNor supports businesses and communities incorporating clean technology and adapting technologies for the Northern environment. There is no specific program for this priority, instead, CanNor funds projects that incorporate clean technology through its various programs. CanNor's Pan-Territorial Growth Strategy prioritizes encouraging the development and deployment of new technologies and innovative practices to support continuous productivity and environmental improvements within the sector. In addition, CanNor's Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO) provides a coordinating and convening role in environmental assessments in the three territories.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal "**Encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Canada**" but not a specific Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) target.

Implementation strategy: Supporting Workers, Businesses and Communities

Departmental action: Investments in Clean Energy & Green Technology

Continue to support investments in clean energy projects and projects that deploy green technology.

Performance indicator: Number of approved clean technology- related projects

- Starting point: 17 projects (2021-2022)
- Target: 10 projects in clean tech projects by March 31, 2028. [Footnote 2](#)

How the departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal and target and, where applicable, to Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

CanNor supports projects that require funding to incorporate clean technology through its various funding programs.

Associated Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets or ambitions and/or Global Indicator Framework (GIF) targets:

- CIF Ambition: Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable economic growth
- GIF Target:
 - 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors



Goal 10

Reduced Inequalities

Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and take action on inequality

Canada's territories are home to 114,000 people, half of whom are Indigenous, living across 40% of Canada's landmass. As the key federal player for developing a strong, diversified, sustainable, and resilient economy for the territories, CanNor has an important role in supporting Indigenous economic development. CanNor's approach in implementing its Pan-Territorial Growth Strategy (PTGS) prioritizes collaboration with territorial governments, Indigenous organizations, industry and other stakeholders, as well as other federal departments. This collaborative approach allows for the integration of economic, social, cultural, and environmental considerations. It also allows for economic growth inside and out of the territorial capitals allowing Northerners to flourish in their own communities. Finally, this approach assists in closing the socio-economic gap for northern Indigenous peoples.

CanNor's Northern Indigenous Economic Opportunities Program (NIEOP) supports greater participation by northern Inuit, First Nations and Métis communities and businesses in economic opportunities. Through its Community Readiness and Opportunities Planning (CROP) program, which funds capacity building to support participation in economic activities, NIEOP will advance opportunities for employment, income, and wealth creation. 2023-24 also marks the first full year of the reintroduction of core funding delivered to Indigenous communities through CROP – CanNor will remain committed to working directly with these communities to ensure they are positioned to take advantage of economic opportunities. In addition, CanNor has been working with partners, including Indigenous partners in the North, to cultivate and grow the Northern innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem through targeted supports and through CanNor's emerging economic research stream under NIEOP, which will aim to identify economic development opportunities for territorial Indigenous community-owned development corporations, private Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs.

CanNor's Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), will continue to play a pivotal coordinating and convening function with industry proponents, regulators, and Indigenous communities while also coordinating Crown consultation for federal regulators during the environmental assessment of new and expanding major projects in the territories. As the host of Pilimaksaivik, CanNor will continue its work in coordinating a whole-of-government approach to building a representative federal public service in Nunavut, as described under Article 23 of the Nunavut Agreement.

In addition to targeted actions in the territories, CanNor will work with other federal departments to help advance broader Government of Canada commitments, including implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (particularly aspects pertaining to economic development) and the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework (ANPF). An important priority of the ANPF is advancing reconciliation and improving relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

CanNor outsources its procurement services through a Memorandum of Understanding with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). In collaboration with ISC, CanNor will examine planned procurements to identify opportunities for Indigenous businesses, support the participation of Indigenous business to compete for contract awards, and contribute to

the enhancement of oversight, planning and reporting mechanisms specific to Indigenous procurement. Finally, CanNor contributes to Indigenous economic development and reconciliation through participation in the Inuit-Crown Partnership working committees, collaboration with other RDAs to enhance supports across Inuit Nunangat, and through determination of how best to implement the National Indigenous Economic Strategy recommendations in the territories.

Target theme:

Advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and the 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: Implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

Departmental action: Award 5% of the total value of contracts to Indigenous businesses[Footnote 3](#)

Performance indicator: Total percentage of contracts with Indigenous businesses

- Starting point: 33% in 2023-2024
- Target: At least 5% annually

How the departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal and target and, where applicable, to Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

CanNor is committed to economic reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and will contribute to improved socio-economic outcomes by increasing opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Métis businesses through the federal procurement process.

Associated Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets or ambitions and/or Global Indicator Framework (GIF) targets:

- CIF Ambition: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced
- GIF Target:
 - 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

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 not a specific FSDS target

Implementation strategy: Indigenous Economic Development & Entrepreneurship Support

Departmental action: Increasing participation and opportunities for Indigenous communities

Continue to support greater participation by northern Inuit, First Nations and Métis communities and businesses and enable them to pursue opportunities for employment, income, and wealth creation.

Performance indicator: Number of Indigenous-led projects funded by NIEOP

- Starting point: 2021-2022: 21 projects
- Target: 61 projects annually

How the departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal and target and, where applicable, to Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

CanNor's Northern Indigenous Economic Opportunities Program (NIEOP) supports greater participation from Indigenous groups and enable them to pursue opportunities for employment, income, and wealth creation. Its design reflects the continuous commitment to Indigenous economic self-determination. Through core funding and project funding, NIEOP will continue to provide long-term support to Indigenous communities and businesses, thus advancing the Government of Canada's priority of Indigenous Economic Reconciliation.

NIEOP is made up of two program streams: The Community Readiness and Opportunities Planning (CROP) program and The Entrepreneurship and Business Development (EBD) program.

CROP project funding provides project-based support to First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and organizations, including organizations providing business development, financial or economic development services under this authority, for capacity and readiness activities so that communities are able to plan for, pursue and participate in economic opportunities. EBD assists Indigenous entrepreneurs, Indigenous businesses and Indigenous organizations in the pursuit of economic opportunities for the benefit of Indigenous people. The stream includes project-based support for activities that facilitate the establishment or expansion of Indigenous businesses.

Associated Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets or ambitions and/or Global Indicator Framework (GIF) targets:

- CIF Ambition: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced
- GIF Target:
 - 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
 - 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
 - 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality



Goal 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles

CanNor in compliance with the Policy on Green Procurement will support sustainable development by integrating environmental performance considerations into the procurement decision-making process through the actions described in the 2019 to 2022 FSDS "Greening Government" goal. CanNor aims to ensure all procurement specialists are trained in green procurement. CanNor is outsourcing its procurement services through a Memorandum of Understanding with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

Target theme:

Federal Leadership on Responsible Consumption

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: Strengthening Green Procurement Criteria

Departmental action: Procurement & Material Specialists Green Procurement Training

Ensure all procurement and materiel management specialists are trained in green procurement (such as, the Canada School of Public Service course on green procurement, or equivalent) within one year of being identified.

Performance indicator: Percentage of procurement and materiel management specialists trained in green procurement within one year of being identified.

- Starting point: 100% in 2022-2023
- Target: 100% of procurement officers and material management specialists receive training with one year of being identified.

How the departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal and target and, where applicable, to Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Green procurement incorporates environmental considerations into purchasing decisions and is expected to motivate suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services they deliver, and their supply chains.

Associated Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets or ambitions and/or Global Indicator Framework (GIF) targets:

- CIF Ambition: Canadians consume in a sustainable manner
 - CIF Indicator: 12.2.1 Proportion of businesses that adopted selected environmental protection activities and management practices
- GIF Target:
 - 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities



Goal 13

Climate Action

Take action on climate change and its impacts

Through its multiple programs related to climate change and climate resilience, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) is contributing to Goal 13. CanNor will implement the Greening Government Strategy by improving climate resilience. CanNor will do this by continuing to raise awareness internally on how climate change impacts programs, operations and policies in the North. CanNor also funds projects that incorporate clean technology through its various programs.

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)

Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government's overall operations

Departmental action: Climate Change Training

Ensure all relevant employees are trained on assessing climate change impacts, undertaking climate change risk assessments, and developing adaptation actions within one year of being identified.

Performance indicator: Percentage of relevant employees trained on assessing climate change impacts, undertaking climate change risk assessments, and developing adaptation actions within one year of being identified

- Starting point: New initiative to start in June 2024
- Target: 100% trained by 2026

How the departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal and target and, where applicable, to Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Relevant employees will undergo training, such as through the Canada School of Public Service, to understand climate impacts and develop program and policies that adapt to climate change.

Associated Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets or ambitions and/or Global Indicator Framework (GIF) targets:

- CIF Ambition: Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions
 - CIF Target: By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- GIF Target:
 - 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
 - 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
 - 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Section 5: Integrating Sustainable Development

CanNor will continue to integrate green procurement practices into its operations and comply with the Policy on Green Procurement. CanNor will consider the environmental effects of initiatives subject to the Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals, as part of its decision-making processes.

CanNor will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its strategic environmental assessment (SEA) process. An SEA for a policy, plan or program proposal includes an analysis of the impacts of the given proposal on the environment, including on relevant FSDS goals and targets.

Public statements on the results of CanNor's assessments are made public when an initiative that has undergone a detailed SEA (see [Reporting on Green Procurement](#)). The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate 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.

Footnotes

Footnote 1

Pending funding renewal decisions

Footnote 2

This revised target reflects intention to concentrate support to clean tech projects with the greatest potential of deployment within the target timeline.

Footnote 3

The departmental action, performance indicator, starting point and target measurements have been changed to match actions and reporting in CanNor's Departmental Plan as well as to align with other Regional Development Agencies.