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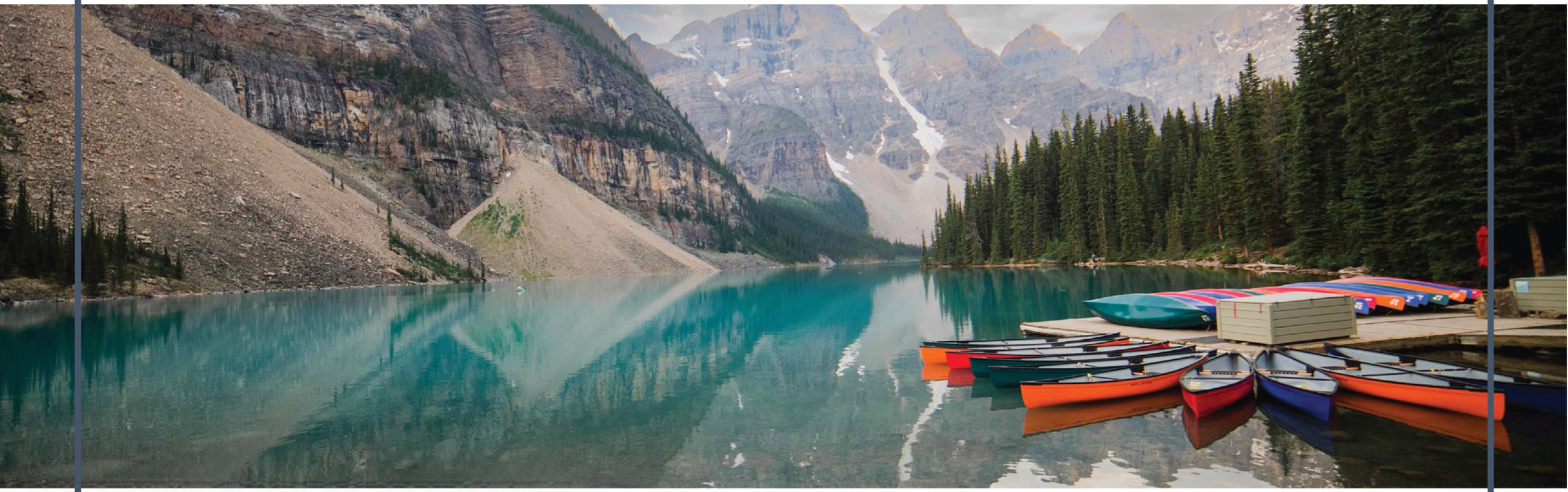

2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

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Introduction to the 2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

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 SSHRC's 2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS). This Report provides a report on progress related to SSHRC's DSDS in the fiscal year 2024 to 2025.

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 SSHRC's DSDS and 2024 to 2025 DSDS Report.

To promote coordinated action on sustainable development across the Government of Canada, SSHRC's departmental strategy reports on Canada's progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDGs, supported by the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets and indicators. The Report also now captures progress on SDG initiatives that fall outside the scope of the FSDS.

Commitments for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

GOAL 4: PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FSDS Context:

SSHRC recognizes that education, particularly in the social sciences and humanities and interdisciplinary studies, is a critical driver of sustainable development progress. In addition to technical solutions, current and increasingly complex emerging challenges require a better understanding of the social, cultural and historical forces at play in peoples' sustainable development decisions. Social sciences and humanities research provides crucial questions, data and universal insights into human behaviour and societies that help us understand ourselves, others, and how our actions shape the world around us. Between 2020-21 and 2023-24, SSHRC invested a total of $173.7 million to support research addressing issues related to sustainable development.

Supporting student skills development

Ensuring quality education and promoting learning opportunities for Canadians of all ages is essential for Canada's economic and social prosperity, and for the well-being of all Canadians. In support of Goal 4 and to increase access to quality education and lifelong learning, SSHRC helps advance the Government of Canada's commitment to promote sustainable development knowledge and skills through talent development. It does so directly by underwriting the training of the next generation of researchers through scholarships and fellowships in the many social sciences and humanities disciplines related to sustainable development as well as indirectly through grants and research partnerships and targeted thematic initiatives. The funding SSHRC provides to students and fellows boosts educational attainment rates and supports the development of relevant skills for employment, including in the environmental, clean technology and clean economy sectors. As well, through initiatives and programs such as the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institute-SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships Collaboration and Mitacs Elevate, SSHRC works with partners to intensify research partnerships across different sectors and provide students and fellows with enriched training experiences that broaden their opportunities.

The new tri-agency harmonized scholarships and fellowships program—the Canada Research Training Awards Suite that was recently launched by SSHRC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)—streamlines the way Canada supports the next generation of research talent. Furthermore, the number and value of graduate scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships have increased to provide students and fellows with the resources they need to focus on their training, tackle complex challenges and drive innovation. Additionally, the Metascience and AI postdoctoral fellowships, launched in partnership with the United States' Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) in 2024-25, are intended to support research and training that enhance our understanding of the implications of artificial intelligence, including how it can accelerate scientific discovery toward sustainable development. These initiatives promote the development of skills and knowledge while leveraging multisectoral expertise to address new global challenges.

Promoting sustainable development knowledge through research partnerships

SSHRC also contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to produce new knowledge that supports sustainable development. Our grants and partnership programs forge invaluable links among 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 fuel the transition to a low-carbon economy. SSHRC supports relevant research by delivering programs that enable researchers to fill knowledge gaps and create solutions.

Scientific collaborations are essential to help understand the impacts of unprecedented environmental change and to respond effectively to the critical challenges of our time. SSHRC-funded research in these key areas benefits Canada's environment, economy and society. For instance, through the Imagining Canada's Future Ideas Lab: Canada and the Circular Economy initiative, the agency fosters innovative approaches to accelerate the global transition towards a circular economy model as a pathway to sustainability. To facilitate the dissemination, transfer and exchange of knowledge on the subject, SSHRC hosted a knowledge mobilization forum in 2024-25 that brought together researchers, diverse stakeholders and cross-sectoral policymakers to present and discuss the Ideas Lab findings.

Making an impact: Spotlight on research

Through the Imagining Canada's Future Ideas Lab and in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Genome Canada, SSHRC is delivering the Global Health and Wellness for the 21st Century funding opportunity. Ideas Labs create new research collaborations that transcend institutional and disciplinary silos to encourage diverse ways of thinking to address complex challenges.

This initiative invests in interdisciplinary projects that present innovative solutions to challenges to Canada's health and wellness systems posed by climate change and other environmental and socio-economic factors.

Four multisectoral teams are supported through two-year grants to design and promote resilient and sustainable health systems and help communities across Canada mitigate and adapt to new and emerging challenges. The findings will inform policies and practices addressing the needs of diverse sectors throughout the country, which may also have wider global benefits.

SSHRC administers several tri-agency programs that strengthen the country's research ecosystem in areas that generate long-term social and economic advantages for Canada. As an example, the Canada First Research Excellence Fund supports large-scale collaborative research in thematic areas 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 enable researchers and students to deliver ground-breaking innovations and to provide essential data for decision making.

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 Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions)[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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Support youth skill development in environmental sectors.	Support students at every stage of study, help develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel in environmental sectors. **Programs**: Insight Research Research Training and Talent Development Research Partnerships New Frontiers in Research Fund Canada Biomedical Research Fund		**Performance indicator**: Funding allocated to support research trainees working on projects related to the environment and sustainable development per fiscal year. **Starting point**: $13.5 million (3-year average) **Target**: Not applicable*	Through grants, scholarships and fellowships, SSHRC attracts, retains and develops the next generation of researchers. 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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition:* Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives.	**Indicator result**: $20.4 million in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result includes direct support to trainees, through scholarships and fellowships, and indirect support by SSHRC grant recipients.

[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.

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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
				CIF Indicator: 4.2.1 Postsecondary educational attainment rate. *GIF Target:* 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.	

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

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 Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions)[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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Work with partners on sustainable development research initiatives.	Support team-led research projects on sustainable development. **Program**: Research Partnerships	**Performance indicator**: Number of partners on research projects related to sustainable development per fiscal year. **Starting point**: 52 (3-year average) **Target**: Not applicable*	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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition:* Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives. *CIF Indicator:* 4.2.1 Postsecondary educational attainment rate.	**Indicator result**: 69 in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result represents the number of unique non-academic partners.

[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.

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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			GIF Target: 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.	
Work with partners on sustainable development research initiatives.	Support team-led research projects on sustainable development. **Program:** Research Partnerships	**Performance indicator**: Non-academic partner funding for research projects related to sustainable development per fiscal year. **Starting point**: $3.2 million (3-year average) **Target**: Not applicable*	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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition:* Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives. *CIF Indicator:* 4.2.1 Postsecondary educational attainment rate. *GIF Target:* 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.	**Indicator result**: $ 4.1 million in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result is based on data from funding opportunity applications in 2024-25.

*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.

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

FSDS Context:

Supporting Indigenous research and research training

SSHRC is committed to strengthening Indigenous self-determination, leadership and capacity in research and research training, and respecting the value of Indigenous Knowledge systems. SSHRC has long supported research by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, and underwrites 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 developed 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 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 several 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)—whose role is to advance federal research priorities and the coordination of policies and programs of the research funding agencies—SSHRC worked with Indigenous communities to co-develop 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, now extended to 2026, seeks to further build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples by advancing their research priorities, increasing their access to agencies' program funding, including through revised financial guidelines, and championing Indigenous leadership, self-determination and capacity building in research. The implementation of the strategy is monitored by the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research (ILCR).

In 2024-25, the agencies engaged with Indigenous research partners to co-develop new funding opportunities that advance Indigenous self-determination and the decolonization of research as well as to provide more equitable access and support to Indigenous organizations and researchers. These initiatives will launch in 2025-26.

SSHRC and its CRCC partners are also working with Indigenous Peoples to implement an interdisciplinary research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation. To further these initiatives, SSHRC also engaged with the ILCR and other Indigenous advisory bodies to co-develop a framework to promote self-identification of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in tri-agency programs. Following these engagements, SSHRC released *What We Heard: A Report from the Three Federal Research Funding Agencies' Ad Hoc Working Group on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership*. Based on what was shared by partners in the report, in 2024-25, SSHRC and the other federal research funding agencies published the *Tri-Agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation* and its associated *Directive*. The Policy and the Directive were designed to guide the establishment of a process aimed at providing reasonable assurance that programs, funding opportunities and/or appointments intended for First Nations, Inuit and Métis applicants are held by First Nations, Inuit and Métis applicants. The implementation of the new policy was piloted through the Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative 2024-25 competition, as well as new appointments to the ILCR.

Making an impact: Spotlight on research

SSHRC's Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative offers additional financial assistance to Indigenous research trainees who have successfully applied to the Canada Graduate Scholars—Master's program.

In 2024-25, 81 Indigenous Scholars were offered these awards for a total investment in the program of $960,000.

Culturally relevant, inclusive and respectful models of Indigenous research are integrated into the Future Challenge Areas being addressed through SSHRC's Imagining Canada's Future initiative. The Knowledge Synthesis Grants call "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?", particularly, has explored issues and sub questions on topics such as Indigenous youth and employment, historical and modern treaties, endangered languages, as well as Indigenous values, cultures and knowledge systems. In addition, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and SSHRC are partnering on a national research program to advance understanding of reconciliation. Carried out by and with Indigenous communities, research on reconciliation and residential schools leverages the skills and knowledge of both parties. NCTR has the expertise and ability to safeguard the truths of survivors, their families, communities and others affected by the residential school system. SSHRC's strength is promoting and supporting research and training in the humanities and social sciences.

Equity, diversity and inclusion in research

Research is more innovative, relevant and impactful when diverse perspectives shape the ways questions are defined and pursued. In recent years, SSHRC and the other federal research funding agencies have undertaken initiatives to foster a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research ecosystem in Canada. Under the leadership of the CRCC, an action plan has been developed that guides 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 the agencies' funding opportunities. It also details how the federal research funding 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 the overuse of narrow indicators such as journal impact factor as a primary indicator of research output quality. It brings together research leaders around the world who are working to increase 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 inform the agency on the best ways to break down existing barriers, ensure equitable access for Black scholars, and amplify their voices and visibility in SSHRC research and research training programs. In response to the advisory committee's findings and recommendations, SSHRC has published its strategic Action Plan for Black Researchers (2024-2029) to address anti-Black racism in the Canadian social sciences and humanities research enterprise. In addition, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC are delivering the Black Scholars initiative through established scholarship and fellowship programs, strengthening the research capacity of Black scholars and enriching Canadian research and innovation. In 2024-25—the second year of the competition—SSHRC offered 109 awards to Black students and postdoctoral researchers. Finally, through its Accessibility Plan, SSHRC works to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in both external programs and policies and in internal activities in compliance with the *Accessible Canada Act*. In 2024-25, SSHRC published its second Accessibility Progress Report and initiated the development of its next accessibility plan.

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	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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.*	Support Indigenous research and research training. **Programs**: Insight Research Research Training and Talent Development Research Partnerships New Frontiers in Research Fund Canada Biomedical Research Fund	**Performance indicator**: Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as Indigenous Peoples. **Starting point**: 3.0% (2022-23) **Target**: At least 5% by 2027	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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition:* Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator:* 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	**Indicator result**: 3.3% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result has exceeded the representation level in academia (1.8%, Statistics Canada, Survey of Postsecondary Faculty and Researchers, 2019). SSHRC's goal is to reach the level of representation in the population (5%, Census 2021).

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	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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
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% **Target***: USRA: 100%	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 research funding 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:** *CIF Ambition*: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator*: 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	**Indicator result**: 100% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The tri-agency USRA program currently supports exclusively Black student trainees. The target for this indicator is intended to be met by 2027.
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*:** CGS-M: 2.2% **Target*:** CGS-M: 3.6%	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 research funding 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:**	**Indicator result:** 5.2% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result exceeds the target. It is significantly above the starting point and reflects SSHRC's commitment to increasing the number of Black awardees. The target for this indicator is intended to be met by 2027.

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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			CIF Ambition: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator*: 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	
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*:** CGS-D: 2.7% **Target*:** CGS-D: 5.0%	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 research funding 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:** *CIF Ambition*: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator*: 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	**Indicator result:** 5.5% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result exceeds the target. It is significantly above the starting point and reflects SSHRC's commitment to increasing the number of Black awardees. The target for this indicator is intended to be met by 2027.
Invest in targeted scholarships.	Support Black research trainees through targeted scholarships. **Program**:	**Performance indicator:** Percentage of research trainees supported through targeted scholarships who self-identify as Black.	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.	**Indicator result:** N/A in 2024-25

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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	Research Training and Talent Development	**Starting point*:** PDF: 1.5% **Target*:** PDF: 4.7%	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 research funding 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:** *CIF Ambition*: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator*: 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	**Notes:** Sample size not sufficient for reporting in compliance with tri-agency privacy guidelines. The target for this indicator is intended to be met by 2027.

* 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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Other	Increase equitable and inclusive access to research funding. **Program**: All	**Performance indicator**: Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as women. **Starting point**: 58.6% (2022-23) **Target**: At least 51% by 2027	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. 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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition:* Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator:* 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	**Indicator result**: 56.1% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result exceeds the level of representation in the general population (50.7%, Census 2021) and academia (47%, Statistics Canada, Survey of Postsecondary Faculty and Researchers, 2019).
Other	Increase equitable and inclusive access to research funding. **Program**: All	**Performance indicator:** Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as members of racialized minorities. **Starting point:** 21.8% (2022-23)	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.	**Indicator result:** 23.9% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result is progressing toward the level of representation in the population (26.6%, Census 2021) and academia (36.1%, Statistics

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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		Target: At least 26% by 2027	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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition:* Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator:* 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	Canada, Survey of Postsecondary Faculty and Researchers, 2019).
Other	Increase equitable and inclusive access to research funding. **Program**: All	**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%	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. 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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:**	**Indicator result:** 11% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result is progressing toward the level of representation in the population (27%, Canadian Survey on Disability 2022) and exceeds the level of representation in academia (7.3%, Statistics Canada, Survey of Postsecondary Faculty and Researchers, 2019). The target for this indicator is intended to be met by 2027.

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			CIF Ambition: Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. *CIF Indicator:* 10.2.1 Proportion of the population reporting discrimination or unfair treatment. *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.	

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

FSDS Context:

Supporting the transition to a net-zero, circular economy

SSHRC contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 to advance the transition 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 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 Governing Strategy, SSHRC continues to integrate environmental performance considerations into its procurement practices 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. 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.

Over the last 13 years, SSHRC has taken the following steps to green its operations:

- promoted the use of standing offers for goods and furniture that support the policy
- met with internal clients to review their annual needs, challenged them to reduce consumption and confirmed that the volume requested is required

- encouraged internal client groups to consider greener products and to share documents digitally (reducing the use of paper, postage and courier services)
- advocated for the purchase or rental of recycled or reused material before acquiring new goods
- increased awareness of the policy and green procurement practices among managers as well as materiel and procurement specialists
- added a clause to all statements of requirement mandating that suppliers meet environmentally preferable packaging specifications

Through these initiatives, SSHRC has ensured that 100% of its procurement specialists receive the necessary training on the policy's requirements, enabling them to integrate environmental considerations in their decision-making. 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.

Beyond these activities, SSHRC supports relevant policies through additional initiatives such as incorporating green criteria into its procurement operational documents and raising further awareness of green acquisition practices among employees. The first strategy incorporates green criteria into the procurement's statement of requirements and other procurement documents. This enables 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 encourages suppliers to develop and offer innovative, environmentally friendly products and services. This is aimed at driving market transformation and enabling the agency to access and adopt sustainable solutions that align with its 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 explores topics like defining green procurement, understanding sustainable supplier selection, and implementing practices that promote environmentally friendly and sustainable behaviours.

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	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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
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 *Policy on Green Procurement* 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:** *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.	**Indicator result**: 90% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result represents the in-house procurement documents including provisions for green considerations as outlined in the *Policy on Green Procurement.* This initiative and the data reported are for both SSHRC and NSERC as the two agencies share some administrative services, including procurement services.
Strengthen green procurement criteria.	Provide all relevant employees and suppliers the necessary tools to support green procurement practices. **Program:** Internal Services	**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	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. 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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *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.	**Indicator result**: 100% in 2024-25 **Notes:** The result is for internal Statement of Requirement and Statement of Work documents. This initiative and the data reported are for both SSHRC and NSERC as the two agencies share some administrative services, including procurement services.

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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Strengthen green procurement criteria.	Provide all relevant employees and suppliers the necessary tools to support green procurement practices. **Program:** Internal Services	**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.	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. 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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *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.	**Indicator result**: 100% in 2024-25 **Notes:** SSHRC maintained a 100% course completion rate for procurement specialists in 2024-25. This initiative and the data reported are for both SSHRC and NSERC as the two agencies share some administrative services, including procurement services.

GOAL 13: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

FSDS Context:

Supporting research on climate change

Climate change has been recognized as the single most important threat to the future well-being of our planet and the health and prosperity of all who inhabit it. Through the research it funds, SSHRC increases our understanding of and capacity 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 leads and participates in 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 (NFRF) and on behalf of the three federal research funding agencies, SSHRC is delivering the 2023 International Initiative for Research on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, a multilateral initiative involving nine international funding partners. This highly impactful call provides $90 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 due to both their physical and socio-economic circumstances. Results were released in February 2024 and announced in June 2024: The agencies are contributing nearly $60 million to the initiative, financing 32 international interdisciplinary research projects.
- The 2024 NordForsk-led International Joint Initiative on Sustainable Development of the Arctic supports international collaboration among Nordic countries, the U.S. and Canada. The objective of the call is to jointly fund interdisciplinary research projects with potential for impact and societal relevance, and with clear added value from multilateral collaboration. Through the International stream of NFRF, the three federal agencies have

dedicated up to $20 million over four years to fund Indigenous co-developed and co-led research projects that explore approaches to sustainable development in the Arctic and solutions to the challenges posed by climate change.

- SSHRC is participating in a decarbonization project under the Global Centers initiative led by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). This collaborative effort involving the NSF, SSHRC, NSERC, Australia's Commonwealth Science and Innovation Research Organization and UKRI supports 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. SSHRC and the NSF are also jointly funding the Global Center on Climate Change Impacts on Transboundary Waters—a large-scale interdisciplinary research team focused on investigating climate change adaptation in the Great Lakes region, with a special emphasis on Indigenous communities.
- SSHRC, in collaboration with NSERC and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), provides funding through the Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative for fundamental and applied research, knowledge transfer and related activities to accelerate transformative science that will transition the agricultural sector to a net-zero emissions economy by 2050. The two agencies seek to catalyze multidisciplinary collaborations among university, college, government and non-academic partners in this area. In 2024-25, SSHRC, NSERC and AAFC announced the results of the first competition, which saw an investment of $87.5 million to support 16 collaborative research projects involving 165 researchers from 30 different academic institutions across Canada. Their research will contribute to creating a sustainable, profitable and resilient agriculture and agri-food sector. Additionally, as part of this initiative, SSHRC and AAFC have invested a total of $1.9 million through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Network on Sustainable Agriculture in a Net-Zero Economy to support a new national research network that advances sustainable agricultural sectors and food systems in Canada.
- 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

Making an impact: Spotlight on research

In 2024-25, SSHRC collaborated on the Global Centers call—Addressing global challenges through the bioeconomy. The initiative, led by the NSF, supports research that advances the bioeconomy and the application of biotechnology to contribute to the agriculture, health, security, manufacturing, energy and environmental sectors and to facilitate the transition to a new-zero economy.

The 2024-25 call was launched by the NSF in partnership with SSHRC, NSERC, the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities, the Research Council of Finland and Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland, the Japan Science and Technology Agency, the ROK Ministry of Science and ICT and the National Research Foundation of Korea and UKRI-Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

As a result of the competition, four Canadian research teams have been selected to work with international partners on projects that investigate how the bioeconomy can help address pressing issues such as climate change. SSHRC has invested a total of $2.1 million over five years to support these projects.

and Clean and Resource-Rich Canada. The programs are funding research projects on a wide range of topics, including sustainability transitions, new sustainable material development, climate change mitigation, energy diversification and the adoption of clean technologies, and economy decarbonization.

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

Greening SSHRC's operations

SSHRC is modernizing its workplace, systems and operations to create a work environment that is both socially and environmentally sustainable. SSHRC recently moved to the Zibi development, situated on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people 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 creating its own action plan. Because environmental sustainability is an essential pillar of that plan, the Zibi community relies entirely on zero-carbon energy sources for its operations, which include SSHRC's headquarters. This is being achieved by creating a district energy system that ensures 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. The transition to a hybrid working model has also provided SSHRC with a renewed opportunity to evaluate the environmental footprint of its professional output. This, paired with its headquarters' commitment to sustainable practices, is keeping SSHRC focused on fostering a greener workplace. In addition, the agency has developed a renewed business continuity plan (BCP) to ensure it is well positioned to respond to disruptions, such as those caused by natural disasters and other impacts of climate change. The BCP was informed by insights gained from the agency's 2024-25 Data Centre Move (DCM) initiative, which involved migrating the agency's servers to be housed within the Shared Services Canada Data Centre and simulated a business continuity scenario offering the opportunity to engage staff in contingency planning. As well, the DCM enabled the agency to rationalize its hardware footprint by reducing its infrastructure and upgrading to more modern, efficient and resilient equipment. Through these measures, SSHRC intends to play a leadership role in supporting the Greening Government Strategy and the Government of Canada's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas 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	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government's overall operations.	Implement electronic disposition plans to reduce the data storage space used in the agencies' systems that manage information and data* **Program**: Internal Services	**Performance indicator**: Data storage space containing the agencies' electronic information and data* **Starting point**: 15 TB in 2023 **Target**: 8 TB in 2027	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. **Relevant targets or ambitions:** *CIF Ambition*: Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. *CIF Indicator*: 13.1.1 Greenhouse gas emissions. *GIF Target:* 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	**Indicator result**: 9 TB in 2024-25 **Notes:** This year, a 2.5 TB reduction was achieved through a disposition initiative aimed at further reducing data stored in the information management systems.

* 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.

Integrating Sustainable Development

SSHRC will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment (SEEA) process.

As required by the *Cabinet Directive on Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment*, a SEEA is conducted for proposals that, when implemented, could result in important environmental and economic effects. A SEEA for a policy, program or regulatory proposal includes an analysis of the climate, nature, environmental and economic effects of the given proposal. The SEEA process is one of the tools through which the FSDS is further integrated in the government's decision making.

Public statements on the results of SSHRC's assessments are issued when an initiative that was the subject of a detailed SEEA is implemented or announced (see here). The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental and economic effects, including contributions to the FSDS goals and targets, of an initiative have been considered during proposal development and decision making.

In 2024-25, SSHRC issued two public statements for proposals that were subject to a detailed SEEA.

SSHRC complies with the Directive and continues to ensure that its decision-making processes include sustainability considerations, including when completing a detailed SEEA. The proposals for which a detailed SEEA was conducted in 2024-25 demonstrate SSHRC's commitment to contributing to the FSDS goals and targets highlighted in this report. They foster related SDGs as they align with sustainable development principles through their negligible environmental impacts, strengthen the agency's efforts to advance research and innovation and to nurture a strong and sustainable research ecosystem, and may carry positive implications for Indigenous Peoples rights and Indigenous Climate Leadership.

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 dimensions.

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 enable 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.

SSHRC has reinforced its commitment to the Directive's objectives by identifying a SEEA and Climate, Nature, Economy Lens (CNEL) liaison to lead related efforts, in collaboration with the other federal research funding agencies where necessary. The agency also promotes its initiatives in support of sustainability through targeted communications, including on social media postings about SSHRC's DSDS. Finally, training on climate change and sustainability literacy is available to agency staff through the Canada School of Public Service.

Ryan Bray / Parks Canada