



Consultation Paper

CSSB's Proposed 2025-2028 Strategic Plan

January 2025

This Consultation Paper closes for comments on April 7, 2025.

Land Acknowledgment

We, the Canadian Sustainability Standards Board (CSSB), acknowledge our work is being developed on the lands of First Nation, Métis and Inuit (“Indigenous”) Peoples across Canada, whose enduring relationship with the earth, water and air has spanned tens of thousands of years.

We recognize the inherent rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples in protecting and sustaining these lands and waters to date, and for generations to come. We recognize and respect the significance of both treaty and unceded lands, and we honour the diverse knowledges, cultures, governance structures and histories of Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

We acknowledge that advancing reconciliation is fundamental to the work of Canadian sustainability standard setting and we commit to ongoing learning, meaningful engagement and partnership with Indigenous Peoples as we serve the public interest by setting and maintaining high-quality sustainability disclosure standards in Canada.

We invite all interested and affected parties to reflect on their own relationship with the land and Indigenous Peoples, and to consider how their work can contribute to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and sustainability.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

In recent years, our understanding of the importance of addressing sustainability risks and opportunities has grown and deepened. Investors and other interested and affected parties making capital-allocation decisions are seeking more and higher-quality information and insights beyond conventional financial statements, including risk and opportunity information on climate and other environmental, social, and governance risks and opportunities. This has led to a variety of sustainability-reporting standards, metrics and frameworks having different requirements and sometimes inconsistent presentation and application. This has made it difficult to make meaningful comparisons and has materially increased the reporting burden for entities seeking to report under multiple frameworks. As a result, interested and affected parties in Canada have expressed an urgent need for alignment with a single international standard for sustainability disclosure.

The International Sustainability Standards Board's (ISSB) global baseline establishes just such a framework. It is important that, in adopting such international standards in Canada, the Canadian Sustainability Standards Board (CSSB) seeks to ensure that its resulting Canadian standards are fit for purpose and responsive to the Canadian public interest. Today, as we launch the proposed 2025-2028 inaugural Strategic Plan for the CSSB, we are committed to advancing just such standards.

Critical to our proposed Strategic Plan is our collaboration with other standard-setting bodies in Canada and around the world, as well as direct engagement with interested and affected parties. This collaborative approach ensures that our standards respond to the real-world challenges Canadian organizations face and help them deliver high-quality, decision-useful information. By doing so, we aim to advance Canada's role in global sustainability disclosure standard setting and help Canadian entities navigate disclosure under global baseline standards. The CSSB has worked closely with the ISSB, ensuring that Canadian voices are heard in international sustainability standard setting and in supporting the adoption of a global sustainability-reporting baseline.

A fundamental pillar of our proposed Strategic Plan is the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives. The CSSB is dedicated to building collaborative partnerships with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples, ensuring that Indigenous rights and interests are meaningfully integrated into our work. By advancing Indigenous perspectives, we seek to develop standards that reflect the voices of all Canadians, enriching our sustainability-reporting framework and embedding respect and reconciliation in our work.

This proposed inaugural Strategic Plan sets forth our strategic priorities for 2025-2028 for public feedback and input. These priorities include developing robust, adaptable standards that reflect the Canadian context, engaging with interested and affected parties across various sectors to ensure inclusivity, and collaborating with international standard setters. We recognize that sustainability reporting is rapidly evolving, and therefore, our approach is designed to be both forward-looking and flexible.

The CSSB's proposed inaugural Strategic Plan represents a collaborative vision for sustainability disclosure standard setting in Canada. We thank you in advance for participating in our consultation on our first proposed Strategic Plan and look forward to receiving your input and advice as we finalize our strategy.

Bruce Marchand, LLB, ICD.D
CSSB Interim Chair

OBJECTIVE

The CSSB proposes, subject to comments received following consultation, to adopt a three-year Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. This proposed Strategic Plan outlines the broad policy objectives that will guide the Board in carrying out its mission, vision and values.

Process and timing for the CSSB's planning process

The CSSB intends to obtain input on its proposed strategic priorities through online surveys, comment letters and consultations with interested and affected parties.¹ After analyzing the input received, the Board will develop any necessary modifications to the proposed Strategic Plan and discuss a revised draft with the [Reporting and Assurance Standards Oversight Council](#). The Board expects to finalize its Strategic Plan in the second half of 2025 and begin implementing it immediately thereafter.

Comments requested

The CSSB welcomes feedback to questions in its proposed Strategic Plan. In addition, the Board seeks targeted input from interested and affected parties on the proposed strategic priorities.

Comments are most helpful when they indicate the specific strategic priority and question to which they relate, clearly explain the concern, and why they agree or disagree with the proposal. Specific questions can be found throughout this proposed Strategic Plan.

You can submit feedback on the proposal up to, and including, April 7, 2025, by visiting the Consultation Paper's [web page](#) and using one of the following methods:

- **Completing an [online survey](#);**
- **Using our optional [response letter template](#) and submitting it through our [online portal](#);** or
- **Submitting an open-format comment letter through our [online portal](#).**

Comment letters can be addressed to:

Lisa French
Vice-President, Sustainability Standards
277 Wellington Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3H2

ABOUT THE CSSB

The CSSB works to advance the adoption of sustainability disclosure standards in Canada. The CSSB develops Canadian Sustainability Disclosure Standards (CSDSs) that align with the global baseline standards developed by the ISSB – but with modifications to serve the Canadian public interest. The CSSB is also a member of the ISSB's [Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum](#), which supports the second aspect of CSSB's mission; its contribution internationally.

¹ The phrase “interested and affected parties” encompasses those who have an interest in the CSSB's standards and work, and those impacted by it – whether by choice or not. This term expands and hones who we mean when we seek to engage and consult.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Our mission

The CSSB's mission is to serve the public interest by setting and maintaining high-quality sustainability disclosure standards for Canadian entities and by contributing to the development of international sustainability disclosure standards.

Our vision

To be the trusted voice on sustainability disclosure standards in Canada, reflected in the broad adoption of our sustainability disclosure standards.

Our values

Integrity and trustworthiness – We will carry out our mission with courage and humility, be competent and accountable.

Respect – We will listen attentively, be open-minded and well-informed, considerate and constructive. We will maintain confidentiality, be empathetic and seek to understand other perspectives.

Inclusivity – We will proactively engage with diverse perspectives, communicate in an accessible manner and constructively challenge what we know.

Collaboration – We will challenge one another, be candid, flexible and vulnerable, build capacity and engagement with interested and affected parties, hold space for others and be clear on objectives and measure outcomes.

Reciprocity – We will foster a culture of mutual respect, and form and maintain long-term relationships with mutual benefits.

Our commitment to Indigenous Peoples and guiding principles and values

The rights of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples are inherent and specific in Canada. All interested and affected parties are impacted when Indigenous Peoples' rights are not respected.

The CSSB is dedicated to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensuring their meaningful participation in shaping sustainability disclosure standards in Canada. In the global context, these rights are affirmed in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\), 2007](#). In the Canadian context, these rights are recognized in [Section 35 of the Constitution](#) and in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, 2021](#). In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, the Board is committed to exploring how best to address these rights in the context of CSDSs and in sustainability standard setting in general.

The CSSB recognizes that advancing reconciliation with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Canada is fundamental to the work of Canadian standard setting for sustainability-related financial disclosures. This commitment is underpinned by a series of guiding principles and values outlined in the [Appendix](#).

This proposed Strategic Plan contains a priority for Indigenous Peoples that advances this important work.

Objectives of the CSSB

The CSSB has the following objectives:

- To set and maintain CSDSs that address the sustainability information needs of capital markets and improve the reporting of sustainability information by Canadian entities with due consideration for the costs and the benefits to the preparers and users of such sustainability information.
- To participate with other standard setters in the development of global best practices in setting sustainability disclosure standards, which are adopted or separately developed by the Board to reflect the Canadian context.
- To support the implementation of such sustainability disclosure standards.

In meeting its objectives, the CSSB is committed to the following:

- Setting high-quality standards that promote confidence in reported sustainability information.
- Ensuring the inclusive and respectful engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the sustainability standard-setting process.
- Respecting and encouraging input from all of those relying on the CSSB's standards.
- Bringing objectivity to the consideration of issues.
- Respecting the ability of those who apply the CSSB's standards to exercise professional judgment.
- Responding to the needs of those who are interested in and affected by the CSSB's standards.
- Seeking ongoing improvement to the standard-setting process.
- Acting as a thought leader on sustainability disclosure issues.

Development of our strategic priorities

In developing possible strategic priorities, the CSSB considered several factors and risks associated with the Board's external environment and operating conditions. These factors concerned:

- the [IRCSS's Final Recommendations](#);
- political and regulatory considerations;
- social and cultural considerations;
- economic considerations;
- emerging developments within sustainability, the physical environment and international reporting standard setting; and
- market feedback from our consultations on [CSDS 1, General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information](#), [CSDS 2, Climate-related Disclosures](#) and the Criteria for Modification Framework.

The CSSB has also considered the [criteria for strategic priorities](#) outlined in this document to assess whether to add certain priorities to the Board's agenda.

Question 1

1. Do you agree with our mission, vision, and values? If not, why not?

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Introduction

Our strategic priorities have been developed to advance our vision, mission and values and to direct our annual plans for fiscal years 2025 to 2028.

Priority A – Establishing the CSSB as the source of Canadian reference standards for high-quality sustainability disclosure

- Support the setting and adoption of high-quality sustainability standards through listening to, and engagement with, interested and affected parties, providing for voluntary adoption by Canadian entities and for use by Canadian regulatory and governmental authorities as the reference source of sustainability disclosure requirements.
- Increase connectivity with other Canadian reporting standard setters.

Priority B – Advancing the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in sustainability standard setting

- Enhance outreach and engagement with Indigenous Peoples to build trust and deepen relationships.
- Create new pathways for Indigenous Peoples to participate in standard-setting processes and provide feedback.
- Champion the inclusion of Indigenous rights and interests in CSDSs.

Priority C – Contributing to the development of international sustainability disclosure standards

- Participate in and influence international standard setting, with a focus on areas of greatest impact on the Canadian public interest, such as the ISSB's biodiversity research project.
- Lead by advocating for Indigenous voices and matters to be included in decision-making at the international level of sustainability standard setting.

Priority D – Determining where the CSSB may contribute by developing additional sustainability standards and/or guidance

- Determine whether the CSSB should provide separate standards and/or guidance for specific types of entities, for example:
 - Canadian small and medium-sized private entities; and
 - public sector entities.
- Determine the CSSB's role in providing CSDS guidance to interested and affected parties.

Priority E – Advancing a communications and outreach strategy to support achieving our mission via effective engagement with interested and affected parties

- Enhance transparency in decision-making and timely processing of feedback for future consultations.
- Conduct effective post-implementation reviews that reflect feedback from interested and affected parties.
- Enhance engagement with the Francophone community in the standard-setting process.

Question 2

2. Are there any priorities or objectives that should be added, changed or removed from the proposed Strategic Plan? If so, please specify which priority or objective you are referring to and explain your reasoning.

Note that questions specific to [Priority B](#) follow that section of this document.

PRIORITY A – ESTABLISHING THE CSSB AS THE SOURCE OF CANADIAN REFERENCE STANDARDS FOR HIGH-QUALITY SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE

To date, the CSSB has developed CSDSs that align with the global baseline standards developed by the ISSB. These foundational standards focus on ensuring that capital-market participants have the information they need to make capital-allocation decisions. With rising calls for globally consistent sustainability disclosure standards, the need to develop and adopt such standards in Canada also grows. Therefore, ensuring the Board's CSDSs become the Canadian reference standard for sustainability disclosures will ensure that Canada remains at the forefront of global sustainability-reporting efforts.

The last several years have seen significant growth and demand for sustainability-related information from companies, as investors have come to appreciate the materiality of sustainability and climate-related risks and opportunities on corporate performance. Several voluntary frameworks and standards were established to help companies meet rising investor demand for this information. This led to a fragmented landscape of reporting requirements, standards and frameworks, which created significant challenges for preparers and investors. Supporting the adoption of the CSDSs within the Canadian regulatory and legal framework as reference standards enhances the CSSB's position as the trusted Canadian voice in sustainability disclosure reporting matters and it brings uniformity, consistency and comparability of information to an otherwise fragmented Canadian sustainability-reporting landscape.

It is important to enhance the connectivity between the CSSB and the other Canadian standard-setting boards to leverage new and existing work. For example, it will be important for the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the CSSB to work together to ensure reporting under CSDSs can be subjected to third-party assurance engagements. Furthermore, collaboration between the Public Sector Accounting Board and the CSSB will be important for monitoring and participating in international activities relating to public sector sustainability standard setting. At the same time, the CSSB will necessarily connect its ongoing work with that of the Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) to ensure harmony among our standards.

All these efforts depend on our ability to listen to and engage with a wide array of interested and affected parties. Our work seeks to benefit the public interest and is necessarily dependent on an active understanding of how our efforts affect entities. Continuous engagement with interested and affected parties will be integral to establishing high-quality sustainability standards.

The CSSB seeks feedback on the following objectives related to Priority A as part of [Question 2](#) above:

- **Support the setting and adoption of high-quality sustainability standards through listening to and engagement with interested and affected parties, providing for voluntary adoption by Canadian entities and for use by Canadian regulatory and governmental authorities as the reference source of sustainability disclosure requirements.**
- **Increase connectivity with other Canadian reporting standard setters.**

PRIORITY B—ADVANCING THE INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD SETTING

The CSSB is committed to advancing the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in sustainability standard setting.² The Board acknowledges that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are inherent and specific in Canada and recognizes that advancing reconciliation is fundamental to our work as Canadian standard setters for sustainability-related disclosures. This recognition is long-standing, strategic and overarching in nature, and will not be limited to any specific project.

In the introductory materials to proposed [CSDS 1 and CSDS 2](#), the CSSB made a commitment to Indigenous Peoples to uphold their rights and ensure their meaningful participation in shaping sustainability disclosure standards in Canada.

To institutionalize its commitment, the CSSB has outlined its first steps, which require building trust and deepening relationships by enhancing its outreach and engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The Board will advance this commitment by improving our outreach and communications with Indigenous Peoples, and we will proactively create spaces to seek the perspectives and input of under-represented groups, including Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, women and Two-Spirit individuals. In November 2024, the Board released “[Indigenous Matters: What We Heard](#),” outlining what it heard from Indigenous respondents and non-Indigenous respondents on Indigenous matters. The public release of these insights is an initial step to ensuring the CSSB maintains transparency and accountability in advancing its commitment to Indigenous Peoples.

To continue this work meaningfully, the CSSB will create an engagement plan informed by the needs and interests of Indigenous Peoples to ensure these groups are invited to participate in the development of its standards. The Board also recognizes that some often-used pathways for providing feedback on consultations may not be conducive to obtaining feedback from Indigenous Peoples, so the Board is committed to developing new and culturally appropriate methods to obtain fulsome feedback from these groups. Therefore, this Consultation Paper contains a set of questions posed specifically for First Nation, Métis and Inuit respondents to seek insights on these activities.

Additionally, in its [consultation on CSDS 1 and CSDS 2](#), despite the absence of a specific question on these matters, the CSSB received supportive feedback from Indigenous and non-Indigenous interested and affected parties regarding developing an additional reporting standard that acknowledges and incorporates Indigenous matters into CSDSs. The Board is considering this “building-block” approach to standard setting as a way to advance this priority.³

To inform these efforts and meet these stated goals, the CSSB seeks public feedback on the following objectives as part of [Question 2](#) above and [Questions 3 to 8](#) below:

- **Enhance outreach and engagement with Indigenous Peoples to build trust and deepen relationships.**
- **Create new pathways for Indigenous Peoples to participate in standard-setting processes and provide feedback.**
- **Champion the inclusion of Indigenous rights and interests in CSDSs.**

2 In the context of sustainability standard setting in Canada, we will use the term “Indigenous Peoples” to include First Nation, Métis and Inuit Nations, rightsholders, governments, communities, businesses and leaders.

3 The IFRS® Foundation allows the “building-block” approach, which it defines as additions to ISSB standards to “facilitate the addition of [reporting and/or disclosure] requirements that are jurisdiction-specific or aimed at a broader group of stakeholders.” IFRS Foundation, “[ISSB's proposed IFRS® Sustainability Disclosure Standards](#),” April 2022, 6–7, accessed September 30, 2024.

Questions 3 to 8

Questions 3-4 for all respondents

3. How should the CSSB integrate this priority and its objectives into sustainability standard setting in Canada?
 - (a) A building-block approach
 - (b) Guidance on materiality and Indigenous matters
 - (c) All the above
4. If you answered (a), what components/elements would you expect to see in a building-block standard focusing on Indigenous matters?

Questions 5-8 for First Nation, Métis and Inuit respondents only

To meaningfully collaborate with Indigenous Peoples in Canada, the CSSB has the following specific questions for First Nation, Metis and Inuit respondents.

5. How should the CSSB balance the richness and diversity of Indigenous voices, needs and interests in its processes?
6. How can the CSSB respectfully integrate Indigenous Knowledges, sciences and worldviews into its process and/or standards?
7. How would you like to see collaboration happen between you, your community, and/or organization and the CSSB? What specific protocols should the CSSB be aware of?
8. Would you be interested in further conversation about these matters? If yes, please provide your name and contact information.

PRIORITY C – CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE STANDARDS

The CSSB seeks to play a key role in advancing, benefiting and supporting the Canadian public interest within the context of international sustainability disclosure standard setting. Our work to date has been focused on adopting the global baseline set by [IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information](#) and [IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures](#) and ensuring the baseline is fit for purpose in Canada through modifications when warranted under our [Criteria for Modification Framework](#). The CSSB is also a new organization establishing its role in the global context and it maintains a seat on the ISSB's [Sustainability Standards Advisory Forum](#). Through its relationship with the ISSB, the CSSB has actively contributed to the development of the ISSB's standards and work plans and will continue this work for the period covered by this proposed Strategic Plan. The CSSB also acknowledges the significant work underway with standard setters and regulators around the world to advance sustainability disclosure that meets the information needs of investors and other interested and affected parties.

Therefore, the CSSB seeks to advance its mission by influencing international standards, as they are being developed. When the Canadian context provides the opportunity, the Board will take it to play an impactful role on the international stage. The Board also seeks to advance interoperability to foster global data comparability and provide users with decision-useful information. The Board does so through regular exchanges with our partners at other Canadian and international standard-setting boards.

To inform these efforts, the CSSB welcomes public feedback on the following objectives as part of [Question 2](#) above. They have been developed with consideration for Canada's distinct strengths and an acknowledgment of the need to establish our reputation as an effective agent in the international context.

- **Participate in and influence international standard setting, with a focus on areas of greatest impact on the Canadian public interest, such as the ISSB's biodiversity research project.**
- **Lead by advocating for Indigenous voices and matters to be included in decision-making at the international level of sustainability standard setting.**

PRIORITY D – DETERMINING WHERE THE CSSB MAY CONTRIBUTE BY DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS AND/OR GUIDANCE

The CSSB was founded as a result of one of the Independent Review Committee of Standard Setting's (IRCSS) recommendations to maintain the relevance of Canadian disclosure standards and respond to rapidly moving developments in this space. The IRCSS tasked the CSSB with using the ISSB's IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards as a starting point for developing sustainability disclosure standards in Canada. The CSSB completed the first major step in this task when, in December 2024, it published CSDS 1 and CSDS 2 (which are based on the ISSB's IFRS S1 and IFRS S2) in the CPA Canada Handbook – Sustainability. Like IFRS S1 and IFRS S2, CSDS 1 and CSDS 2 provide disclosure standards for for-profit entities, with a focus on publicly accountable enterprises operating within global capital markets. The CSSB is now considering whether to develop additional sustainability disclosure standards and/or guidance in the Canadian public interest.

Factors that informed the development of Priority D and related objectives included the IRCSS's recommendations and feedback received during the CSSB's [consultations on CSDS 1, CSDS 2](#) and the [Criteria for Modification Framework](#).

This priority is intended to help the CSSB determine its role in developing standards for entities that were not the focus of CSDS 1 and CSDS 2 (e.g., small and medium-sized private entities and the public sector) and what role the Board should play in creating guidance related to its standards for those entities.

The CSSB acknowledges that a variety of potential materials constitute guidance related to its standards. Potential examples of guidance the Board could provide include (but are not limited to):

- authoritative or non-authoritative interpretative or illustrative guidance that would accompany our standards in the Handbook (while acknowledging that the ISSB will issue authoritative guidance that affects our standards);
- implementation guidance such as that currently created by third parties, consultancies and advisors;
- “frequently-asked-questions” reference documents;
- educational resources; and
- appointing a technical committee to review direct feedback on implementing CSDSs and support the Board on challenges related to implementation or guidance.

To inform these efforts, the CSSB welcomes public feedback on the following objectives as part of [Question 2](#) above:

- **Determine whether the CSSB should provide separate standards and/or guidance for specific types of entities, for example:**
 - **Canadian small and medium-sized private entities; and**
 - **public sector entities.**
- **Determine the CSSB's role in providing CSDS guidance to interested and affected parties.**

PRIORITY E – ADVANCING A COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH STRATEGY TO SUPPORT ACHIEVING OUR MISSION VIA EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Communicating and engaging with those interested in and affected by our work is integral to our functioning as a Canadian sustainability disclosure standard setter. These activities are at the core of our ability to understand and benefit the Canadian public interest and are a fundamental part of how the CSSB advances its mission. This work is also a two-way process. For as much as the Board relies on interested and affected parties to provide feedback on its work, the Board acknowledges a clear need to provide timely and transparent information, communications and education to its interested and affected parties. This need was clearly communicated to the Board on a range of topics and by numerous respondents through its consultations on [CSDS 1](#), [CSDS 2](#) and [the Criteria for Modification Framework](#). This consultation also revealed a clear need for the Board to explain how our role differs from other standards setters and financial regulators, through enhanced communication, education and transparency about our work.

The CSSB is, therefore, carefully considering how best to engage, educate and provide guidance to interested and affected parties for the period covered by this proposed Strategic Plan. The Board welcomes public feedback as part of [Question 2](#) above on the following objectives to inform its final Strategic Plan and the development of future annual work plans:

- **Enhance transparency in decision-making and timely processing of feedback for future consultations.**
- **Conduct effective post-implementation reviews that reflect feedback from interested and affected parties.**
- **Enhance engagement with the Francophone community in the standard-setting process.**

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This Consultation Paper seeks your feedback (as part of [Question 9](#) below) on the criteria the CSSB considers in assessing potential priorities to be added to its proposed Strategic Plan. When assessing potential strategic priorities, the Board weighs each of these criteria against its broader context, including external developments impacting its operating environment and the trade-offs involved with adding new priorities to address in its workplans. These trade-offs include:

- considering the Board's resources and how the new priority will affect the Board's capacity to fulfill its mission and strategic priorities;
- assessing the priorities' connection with other standards and frameworks; and
- considering how the strategic priority reflects the views of its interested and affected parties and how it serves the Canadian public interest.

These priorities are listed in no particular order.

Criteria for strategic priorities

Prevalence

- Consideration of alignment with national and international standards and priorities that further the CSSB's mission, vision and objectives.
- Canadian-specific topics that serve the public interest by improving sustainability disclosure practices.

Impacts

- How urgent the matter is likely to be for entities and/or the Canadian public interest.
- Relevance of sustainability disclosure information to interested and affected parties.
- How the matter addresses or responds to regulatory, legal or policy-related risks and developments related to advancing high-quality sustainability disclosure.
- Interoperability with other national and international standards.
- How addressing the matter will advance the CSSB's mission and vision over the short, medium and long term.

Question 9

9. Has the CSSB identified the appropriate criteria for assessing strategic priorities? If not, why not?

CARRYING OUT THE PLAN

Due process

The CSSB's [due process](#) is based on the principles of transparency, consultation and accountability. It is comparable to that of other Canadian and global standard setters (e.g., the AcSB and the ISSB).

Communication

The CSSB communicates extensively with interested and affected parties through its outreach activities, social media and [webpage](#) to develop high-quality sustainability disclosure standards and provide input to the ISSB on behalf of Canadians.

We will continue to look for ways to use technology to increase our accessibility, enhance communication and engage meaningfully with interested and affected parties.

Assessing our performance

As detailed in our [Terms of Reference](#), the CSSB is accountable to the [Oversight Council](#) to demonstrate that it has used the resources allocated to it effectively and efficiently and that it has assessed how well it is meeting its mission. This proposed Strategic Plan will be used to inform and develop annual work plans from 2025 to 2028.

Engagement with interested and affected parties

As part of its [due process](#), an effective standard setter consults with its interested and affected parties about its project priorities. The CSSB meets regularly with interested and affected parties, publishes documents for comment and seeks input from interested and affected parties through outreach activities.

In addition, standard setters often liaise with other authorities (including securities regulators, governments, auditing regulators, subject-area experts and professional bodies) in working toward a shared goal of the development of high-quality sustainability disclosures. The CSSB will continue to prioritize these activities.

Research

To best inform standard-setting decisions, research needs to be timely and relevant to the issues the CSSB is considering. Going forward we will consider:

- undertaking research to inform decisions relating to future project work; and
- working with academics and other subject matter experts to research specific topics as part of a standard-setting project or other initiative.

For research inquiries, please contact us at cssb.ccnid@frascanada.ca.

APPENDIX – THE CSSB'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES FOR UPHOLDING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN CANADIAN SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE STANDARD SETTING

The proposed “Guiding Principles and Values” document will provide a public-facing framework for:

- implementing the CSSB's strategic priorities for advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples;
- driving the Board's behaviours as this work is advanced; and
- holding the Board accountable for its commitments.

In its commitment to Indigenous Peoples, the CSSB recognizes that respecting the rights of, and advancing reconciliation with, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Canada is fundamental to the work of Canadian standard setting for sustainability-related disclosures. Further, the Board is dedicated to ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in shaping sustainability disclosure standards in Canada. Underpinning these commitments are a series of guiding principles and values that will act as guideposts for the Board as it works toward deeper trust and relationship-building with Indigenous Peoples.

This proposed document is informed by Indigenous Peoples' rights affirmed in [UNDRIP](#), and the principles enumerated in the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report and the Report's accompanying Calls to Action](#), the [Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls including the Calls for Justice](#) and the [Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples](#). These latter Canadian-specific materials contain some of the contemporary voices, interests and expectations of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

The proposed “Guiding Principles and Values” document will help focus the CSSB's strategic priorities to respect the rights of and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. It provides clarity to CSSB members, staff, interested and affected parties, and the public about the Board's approach to this long-term work.

The proposed document comprises seven guiding principles and 11 values as laid out below.

Guiding principles

1. **The CSSB recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples' rights:** The rights of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples are inherent and specific in Canada. In collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, the Board will explore how best to address these rights in the context of CSDs. The Board intends to use its influence to help inform international sustainability disclosure standards in a manner respectful of Indigenous Peoples' rights as affirmed by [UNDRIP](#).
2. **The CSSB recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination, realized through their own governance, laws and practices:** The Board will undertake ongoing educational programming with Board members and staff to build cultural and historical competency in Indigenous governance structures, conceptions of sustainability, worldviews and sustainable practices, using a distinction-based approach.
3. **Restoring relationships is at the core of reconciliation:** The CSSB is committed to investing in long-term relationship-building with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples to ensure their priorities and feedback are woven into our standard-setting process.

4. **The commitment to advancing reconciliation is an objective that must be incorporated into every aspect of the CSSB's work:** The Board considers building relationships with Indigenous Peoples as a core strategic priority, meaning it will be considered across all our future projects and work plans.
5. **The CSSB recognizes reconciliation is an ongoing process and requires humility, self-awareness, and reflexive thought:** The Board acknowledges that as relationships continue to develop and expand, our comprehension of reconciliation will also evolve. The Board commits to remaining open to this ongoing process of growth and understanding; its commitment extends to creating an engagement plan informed by the needs and interests of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Nations, rightsholders, governments, communities, businesses and leaders to ensure these groups are involved in the development of its standards. Accordingly, the Board intends to actively listen to, and collaborate with, Indigenous Peoples to develop its strategic plans and to shape sustainability disclosure standards in Canada. The Board will listen deeply and commit to be creative, innovative and inclusive of these important worldviews.
6. **Achieving reconciliation necessitates the recognition of historical injustices and contemporary obstacles to fostering positive and respectful relationships:** The CSSB's commitment involves identifying and confronting barriers like systemic discrimination, bias and the constraints imposed by colonial structures. The Board aims to address these challenges directly, with due regard for the human dignity and rights of Indigenous Peoples.
7. **The CSSB is committed to adopting an outcome-based approach to reconciliation:** The Board will actively pursue practical and tangible tools and measures within our work. The Board understands that accountability and tangible advancements are crucial for fostering and repairing trust.

Guiding values

- Accessibility
- Accountability
- Attentive Listening
- Clarity
- Collaboration
- Courage
- Humility
- Inclusivity
- Reciprocity
- Respect
- Transparency

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