

# Executive Summary

This project focuses on Canada's 2030 Agenda National Strategy for sustainable development. It was launched in 2019 to support the United Nations 2030 Agenda as a global call to action with 17 sustainable goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people live in peace and prosperity by 2030. Our aim was to identify the three top strategic priorities and potential initiatives specifically under Employment and Social Development Canada's responsibility that would have the largest impact in moving the SDGs forward by 2030. Our research shows that Canada is not on track with many of the goals, but more importantly, it is also alarmingly behind in terms of tracking and reporting the progress of the indicators for each goal. Among the SDGs that ESDC is responsible to lead or co-lead, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production are specifically struggling with significant and major challenges to be achieved by 2030. After consultation with our client, we have analyzed our research data. This report will provide an overall overview of Canada's progress on the trajectory and the current initiatives supporting SDGs 8, 10, and 12. Research on the policies implemented in the Scandinavian countries (Top five countries in terms of progress on achieving SDGs) points to the fact that these countries have an efficient indicator framework that is closely followed while creating new initiatives as they progress.

Through our research, we have come up with 3 initiatives to improve progress with respect to Sustainable development goals. We break down our recommendations into each specific SDG.

1. **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth** - Robust identification of Youth NEETs need to be implemented with more contact and better monitoring.

2. **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities** - Improve Canadian senior benefits. Implement quasi-mandatory occupational pensions and provide private, individual, and voluntary tax-deductible contributions made to annuity insurance.

3. **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production** - We need to promote innovation and behavior change, collaborate effectively, and foster advocacy.

4. **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals** - We found it heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemics, monkeypox, and the financial turbulence brought by the Russia-Ukraine war. We recommend considering SDG 17 as the fourth priority since the progress on other SDGs will impact the progress on SDG 17 positively.