



Prince's Trust Canada
La fondation du prince au Canada

Prince's Trust Canada's Commitment to Sustainability August 2022

At Prince's Trust Canada, we understand the environmental crisis caused by climate change will have, and is already having, a significant impact on how our society and economy functions. We also recognize that addressing climate change requires a commitment to sustainability and an integrated approach that considers social, economic, and environmental factors. PTC as a national charity strives to support sustainability in the form of community-driven, collective actions in response to the threats associated with climate change.

This document outlines our commitment to join with other organizations and initiatives to leverage the existing structures and systems, and to advance local solutions at a global scale. With urgency, we believe that systems-level and holistic thinking can yield the solutions that are necessary to better prepare young people and Veterans to join the transition to create a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.

Grounded in our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and inspired by our founder and President, His Majesty King Charles, who has been a leader in this work for over 50 years, we champion processes, actions and relationships that embed sustainability across our organization. We have developed this commitment as part of a broader framework to operationalize sustainability and sustainable practices throughout our values, programs, policies, and practices. This commitment includes externally adapting our programs and partnerships to increase systems-level supports for the transition to a greener economy, and internally adjusting our operations with a focus on reducing our own ecological footprint.

Through this document we will demonstrate our commitment to sustainability by sharing a series of actions we will undertake organizationally, as well as our intention to join with partners to leverage existing resources and systems to advance our commitments to sustainability.

Prince's Trust Canada's actions framework on sustainability which brings this work to life is currently in development. We will report on our journey, and update goals as we progress.

On Sustainability

Sustainability is a complex term whose definition has evolved over time to encompass not only concerns over the earth's ecology, but the pressing need to balance social equity with economic development. At the core, Prince's Trust Canada integrates several interpretations of sustainability – that of social equity, economic resilience, and environmental health – as the form upon which we commit to creating a just, equitable future where people and planet can prosper and thrive.



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Taking our cues from the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we acknowledge that these issues are interconnected and inherently complex. Any approach we might take to driving change (locally, internally, globally or externally) therefore requires a holistic, systems-level approach.

Prince's Trust Canada is a member of a global community of actors – nations, organizations, and other entities – bound by a commitment nestled among the following three pillars:

- Environmental sustainability refers to the health of ecological systems upon which all life on earth depends – a stable climate, clean air and water, land use and biodiversity. This pillar enables a healthy society and economy by providing the necessities of life, and renewable natural resources.
- Social sustainability refers to social justice, equity, healthcare, governance, education, and other elements that contribute to our individual and collective wellbeing. Social sustainability is dependent on the health of the environment – clean air, water, land, and access to nutritious food for all.
- Economic sustainability refers to the financial systems that utilize resources to manufacture items, technologies, industries, and services that we buy, sell and trade. Economic sustainability is dependent on the other two pillars and like the others, is subject to innovations in their definitions.

On The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

Prince's Trust Canada is guided by the UN SDGs which are the point of origin as we embark upon our collaborative journey towards creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable future. While our programs are currently informed by SDGs 4, 8, 10, and 13 – below – they are equally shaped by our perennial commitment to taking a holistic lens, one which recognizes our unique value to other organizations and initiatives within an ecosystem that spans local, national, and global commitments.

- #4 Quality Education: Our programs provide educational opportunities for young people and Veterans to explore, build skills, and develop their careers.
- #8 Decent Work & Economic Growth: Our programs develop the necessary skills for purposeful employment and create a framework for economic growth for our communities.
- #10 Reduced Inequalities: Our programs aim to improve employment opportunities for individuals experiencing significant barriers to employment.
- #13 Climate Action: Our programs equip participants with knowledge and skills necessary to help them discover careers that support climate change action.

On Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Prince's Trust Canada recognizes the disproportionate impact that climate change is having on marginalized communities and the lack of representation of racialized people in the sustainability sector. We also recognize the connection between sustainability and Indigenous communities. Indigenous communities have been stewards of the land for thousands of years



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and we recognize that climate change is largely the result of actions taken by colonial powers and settlers.

For more information about Prince's Trust Canada's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), please see [this link](#).

As an organization, we have taken action with our work around Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and we are continuing to deepen and evolve this work, including applying the learnings and actions to our sustainability work. This learning includes engagement with Indigenous communities, including elders and knowledge keepers around their understanding of sustainability, environmental stewardship, the impacts of climate change, and the healthy relationships with the land and natural world. We commit to continuously learning as an organization as we deepen our knowledge in support of truth and reconciliation efforts. We also commit to working in partnership with these communities while also recognizing where we fit in, into which spaces we have been invited, and in which spaces others have been leading and should lead.

Sustainability and climate justice cannot be achieved without making conscious efforts to ensure these spaces are accessible and that voices from all perspectives are heard and included. This commitment directly translates into our effort as an organization to *contribute to an inclusive and sustainable future for Canada by helping equity-deserving young people and Veterans explore, prepare for, and gain access to purposeful, good green jobs.*

Thank you for sharing in this journey with us and we look forward to sharing our progress and learnings as part of our Strategic Plan reports.

For more information about the development of our strategy and additional background, please write to us at info@princestrust.ca.