

Dear Community Member,

We are writing in hopes that you will share your voice in relation to the proposed federal Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy – and to invite you to help us in building awareness and support for its recommendations.

In June 2017, Ministers Jean-Yves Duclos (Families, Children and Social Development) and Patty Hajdu (Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour) appointed 16 people from diverse sectors and a government co-chair from ESDC to a ‘Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy Co-Creation Steering Group.’ Our mandate was to develop bold ideas for strengthening Canada’s ability to transform social and environmental challenges into opportunities – and to empower communities to act on them.

Background:

We aligned our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and engaged organizations and community members from across Canada – as well as Indigenous groups with whom conversations are ongoing.

In June 2018, we made a submission to the Ministers, outlining recommendations around seven major themes (detailed in the brochure available for download on sisfs.ca).

A host of factors, from climate change to shifting socio-economic demographics, are changing the way we approach our most intractable challenges. We are asking the government to use this as an opportunity to do different.

The Strategy is designed to work as an ecosystem, where each component complements the others. And while it focuses on the social sector, there are important implications for everyone, as no one sector on its own can accomplish what needs to be done. New alternatives are needed that bridge the gaps between the social sector, the private sector, the public sector, community, and society – to create space for innovative solutions.

With the detailed Strategy to be released in the Fall, we are already working to build momentum towards its adoption and implementation.

This is where we need your help:

We need your support in principle for the recommendations and hope you will share that with your key stakeholders. Please share the materials available for download with your colleagues and stakeholders, and advise your MP of the challenges your organization faces.

Once the strategy is public we will initiate the second phase of our awareness campaign, with further opportunities to get involved. Sign up for updates via the website www.sisfs.ca

With thanks and much hope,

The 16 non-government members of the Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy Co-Creation Steering Group

- Marie J. Bouchard, full professor, École des sciences de la gestion, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal
- Tania Carnegie, Chief Impact Officer, KPMG, Toronto
- Allyson Hewitt, JW McConnell Family Foundation Senior Fellow, Social Innovation at the MaRS Discovery District, Toronto
- Stephen Huddart, President and CEO, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Montreal
- David LePage, Chair, Social Enterprise Council of Canada & Managing Partner of Buy Social Canada, Vancouver
- Roselyne Mavungu, President and CEO of MicroEntreprendre, Montreal
- Nancy Neamtan, Strategic Advisor at TIESS (a social innovation liaison and knowledge transfer centre) & Founder Chantier de l'économie sociale, Montreal
- Don Palmer, Executive Director, Causeway Work Centre, Ottawa
- Carl Pursey, President of the Federation of Labour, Charlottetown
- Ajmal Sataar, Founder & President, Inspire Nunavut
- Dr. James Tansey, Executive Director and Associate Professor, Sauder S3i, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- Norm Tasevski, Purpose Capital and JvN Developments, Toronto
- David Upton, Co-founder, Common Good Solutions, Halifax
- Francine Whiteduck, Founder, Whiteduck Resources Inc, Kitigan Zibi First Nation
- Brenda Zurba, Vice President and Head of Aboriginal Markets Aski Capital Inc. (Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation (TWCC) Group of Companies), Winnipeg
- Lauren Dobell, Chair, Credit Union Social Responsibility (CUSR) Committee, Canadian Credit Union Association (CCUA), Vancouver

