

Canada's Enhanced Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy To Strengthen Canada's Extractive Sector Abroad

"Doing Business the Canadian Way: A Strategy to Advance Corporate Social Responsibility in Canada's Extractive Sector Abroad"

Canada's enhanced Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Strategy, "[*Doing Business the Canadian Way: A Strategy to Advance Corporate Social Responsibility in Canada's Extractive Sector Abroad*](#)" builds on experience and best practices gained since the 2009 launch of Canada's first CSR strategy, "*Building the Canadian Advantage: A Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy for the Canadian Extractive Sector Abroad*."

The enhanced Strategy, announced on November 14, 2014, clearly demonstrates the Government of Canada's expectation that Canadian companies will promote Canadian values and operate abroad with the highest ethical standards. It also outlines the Government's initiatives to help Canadian companies strengthen their CSR practices and maximize the benefits their investments can provide to those in host countries.

Key elements of the enhanced CSR strategy include:

- Strengthened support for CSR initiatives at Canada's diplomatic network of missions abroad, aimed at ensuring a consistently high level of CSR-related service to the Canadian business community around the world, building networks and local partnerships with communities, and reinforcing Canadian leadership, excellence, and best practices in the extractives sector;
- Increased support and additional training for Canada's missions abroad to ensure Trade Commissioners and staff are equipped to detect issues early on and contribute to their resolution before they escalate;
- Re-focusing the role of the Office of the CSR Counsellor, including strengthening its mandate to promote strong CSR guidelines to the Canadian extractive sector and advising companies on incorporating such guidelines into their operating approach. The CSR Counsellor will also build on the work conducted at missions abroad by refocusing efforts on working to prevent, identify and resolve disputes in their early stages;
- In situations where parties to a dispute would benefit from formal mediation, the CSR Counsellor will encourage them to refer their issue to Canada's National Contact Point (NCP), the robust and proven dispute resolution mechanism, guided by the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on responsible business conduct, and active in 46 countries;
- Companies are expected to align with CSR guidelines and will be recognized by the CSR Counsellor's Office as eligible for enhanced Government of Canada economic diplomacy. As a penalty for companies that do not embody CSR best practices and refuse to participate in the CSR Counsellor's Office or NCP dispute resolution processes, Government of Canada support in foreign markets will be withdrawn;
- Inclusion of benchmark CSR guidance released since 2009, namely the United Nations *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*, and the OECD *Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*; and
- Flexibility to build awareness of a broader range of extractive sector-specific CSR guidance, including those developed in Canada, e.g., the Mining Association of Canada's *Towards Sustainable Mining*, and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's *e3 Plus*.