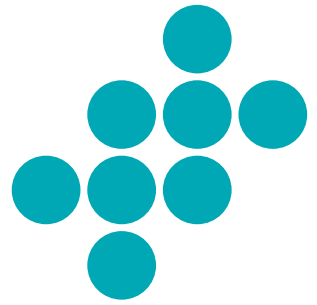




Canada Economic  
Development  
for Quebec Regions

Développement  
économique Canada  
pour les régions du Québec



Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Report under the Fighting Against Forced Labour  
and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act

2023-2024

## PART 1 : IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

**\* Name of government institution**

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED)

**\* Financial reporting year (start date, end date)**

April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024

**Indicate if this is a revised report**

No

## PART 2: REPORT CONTENTS

### 2.1 Information on the government institution's structure, activities and supply chains

**\* Which of the following accurately describes the government institution's activities?**

- Purchasing goods
  - in Canada
  - outside Canada

**\* Provide additional information on the government institution's structure, activities and supply chains.**

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED) is the key development player for Quebec's regions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In order to accomplish its core responsibility, which is economic development in Quebec, CED fosters business start-ups and growth. It helps them become more innovative, productive and competitive. It supports

efforts to engage the regions of Quebec and attract investments that will help boost the economic well-being of Quebec and Canada.

The Agency's achieves its results by supporting businesses, primarily SMEs, and non-profit organizations (NPOs), through strategic investments. Through its 12 business offices across Quebec's regions and the relationships it has developed with other economic development players, CED stays abreast of the needs of the regions and businesses and is able to offer financial support to carry out projects that support businesses and communities in their economic development efforts.

CED primarily acquires services like training programs and goods essential for daily business operations, including office furniture, supplies, and information technology equipment.

At CED approximately 64,14% of the annual value of our purchases were made through the use of PSPC tools such as Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements.

Since November 2021, PSPC implemented anti-forced labour clauses in all goods contracts to ensure that it can terminate contracts where there is credible information that the goods have been produced in whole or in part by forced labour or human trafficking. Additionally, since November 20, 2023, all PSPC Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements for goods that have been issued, amended, or refreshed include anti-forced labour clauses.

As such, all of our contracts for goods resulting from the use of these tools include clauses relating to forced labour which set out, among other things, human rights and labour rights requirements. These clauses can be found in the [policy notification 150 – Anti-forced labour requirements](#).

## **2.2 Information on the steps taken to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used at any step of the production of goods produced, purchased or distributed by the government institution.**

CED has integrated PSPC's updated General Conditions for goods contracts and PSPC's Code of Conduct for Procurement in our purchasing activities.

In addition, to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour or child labour in our procurements, CED has used the following list of PSPC's tools:

- Standing Offers
- Supply Arrangements
- Anti-forced labour contract clauses

While PSPC supports government institutions in their daily operations by acting as the central purchasing agent for the Government of Canada, CED undertakes activities under its own procurement authority, independently of the aforementioned PSPC tools.

During the previous fiscal year, CED purchased goods and services under its own procurement authority in the following areas:

- Phone boxes or phone booths
- Training services
- Database access services
- Dismantling services

### 2.3 Information on the policies and due diligence processes in relation to forced labour and child labour

**\* Does the government institution currently have policies and due diligence processes in place related to forced labour and/or child labour? (Yes or No)**

- Yes

\* If yes, which of the following elements of the due diligence process has the government institution implemented in relation to forced labour and/or child labour?

- Embedding responsible business conduct into policies and management systems

**If applicable, please provide additional information on the government institution's policies and due diligence processes in relation to forced labour and child labour**

Effective April 1, 2023, amendments to the Treasury Board Directive on the Management of Procurement require contracting authorities from all departments listed in Schedules I, I.1 and II of the Financial Administration Act (with the exception of the Canada Revenue Agency) and commissions established in accordance with the Inquiries Act and designated as a department for the purposes of the Financial Administration Act to incorporate the Code of Conduct for Procurement ("the Code") into their procurement.

Pursuant to the aforementioned amendments, CED has integrated the Code into its procurement, with a view to safeguarding federal procurement supply chains from forced labour and child labour. Contracts that our organization has awarded included the Code through the General Conditions for goods.

The Code requires that vendors, providing goods and services to the Government of Canada and their sub-contractors, comply with all applicable laws and regulations. In addition, the Code requires vendors and their sub-contractors to comply with Canada's prohibition on the importation of goods produced, in whole or in part, by forced or compulsory labour. This includes forced or compulsory child labour and applies to all goods, regardless of their country of origin.

The prohibition on the importation of goods produced wholly or in part by forced labour came into force under the Customs Tariff on July 1, 2020. This amendment implemented a commitment in the Labour Chapter of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and applies to all imports, regardless of origin.

**2.4 Information on the parts of its activities and supply chains that carry a risk of forced labour or child labour being used and the steps taken to assess and manage that risk**

**\* Has the government institution identified the parts of its activities and supply chains that carry a risk of forced labour or child labour being used?**

- No, we have not started the process of identifying risks.

CED will be initiating a review in 2024-2025 to identify parts of its activities and supply chains that carry a risk of forced labour or child labour being used.

CED is aware that in May 2021, a risk analysis of PSPC's supply chains was completed by Rights Lab, of the University of Nottingham (U.K.), to determine which goods were at the highest risk of exposure to human trafficking, forced labour, and child labour. The analysis, and subsequent report, elaborated the key strategies for PSPC to leverage public spending power to raise awareness about forced labour in supply chains.

CED has familiarized itself with information on the risk assessment provided by PSPC, and is monitoring related follow-action, including the development of a Policy on Ethical Procurement.

**2.5 Information on any measures taken to remediate any forced labour or child labour**

**\* Has the government institution taken any measures to remediate any forced labour or child labour in its activities and supply chains?**

- No, we have not taken any remediation measures.

**2.6 Information on any measures taken to remediate the loss of income to the most vulnerable families that results from any measure taken to eliminate the use of forced labour or child labour in the institution's activities and supply chains**

**\* Has the government institution taken any measures to remediate the loss of income to the most vulnerable families that results from any measure taken to eliminate the use of forced or child labour in its activities and supply chains?**

- No, we have not taken any remediation measures.

## 2.7 Information on the training provided to employees on forced labour and child labour

**\* Does the government institution currently provide training to employees on forced labour and/or child labour? (Y/N)**

- No, CED does not currently provide training to employees on forced labour and/or child labour.

**If applicable, please provide additional information on the training the government institution provides to employees on forced labour and child labour.**

CED is aware that PSPC is currently developing awareness-raising guidance materials (including risk mitigation strategies) for suppliers, targeted towards high-risk sectors. CED is monitoring the development of these materials and will leverage these resources upon their publication.

## 2.8 Information on how the government institution assesses its effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in its activities and supply chains

**\* Does the government institution currently have policies and procedures in place to assess its effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in its activities and supply chains? (Yes or No)**

- No, CED does not currently have policies and procedures in place to assess its effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in its activities and supply chains.