

2024 Report under the *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act*

Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Fraser Valley Regional District (“FVRD”) and Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District (“FVRHD”) in response to Canada’s *Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act* for our financial year ending December 31, 2023.

The Act encourages transparency of actions taken by Canadian organizations to prevent and reduce the risks of forced labour and child labour in the sale, production, distribution and importation of goods. Although only a very small part of our activities involves selling or importing goods, the Act applies even if the import or sale of goods is not the primary activity of a reporting entity. The Act only excludes very minor dealings.

Also, we recognize the importance of identifying and preventing risk of forced labour and child labour in Canada’s supply chains. We are committed to promoting labour practices that protect the safety and human rights of workers, including preventing and mitigating the risks of forced labour and child labour in our operations and supply chains.

Organizational structure, activities, and supply chain

The FVRD is a local government consisting of six municipalities (Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Harrison Hot Springs, Hope, Kent, and Mission) and eight unincorporated electoral areas. Our local government offices are located in Chilliwack, British Columbia. We are governed by a 24-member Board, consisting of 8 directors elected by the electoral areas, and 16 directors appointed from our municipal councils.

The FVRD is responsible for governance, administration and services within the district. We deliver over 100 different services to the approximately 325,000 residents in our district, which include animal control, emergency management, bylaw enforcement, recycling, composting, garbage, sewer and septic, and street lighting.

The FVRHD was established by the provincial government to provide the local share of capital funding for health care infrastructure in the Fraser Valley. Working with the Fraser Health Authority, the FVRHD supports healthy communities by investing in health care equipment and capital priorities. Each member of the FVRD Board also serves on the FVRHD Board.

Our operational activities occasionally include the sale and import of goods. The FVRD sells sporting accessories and vending machine beverages at our recreational facilities, branded clothing to our employees, and aviation fuel at a regional airport in Hope.

Our supply chain is closely aligned with the location of our operations in British Columbia, as we are committed to supporting local vendors in our community wherever possible. However, we occasionally import software, technology, equipment, office supplies and parts into Canada. The majority of our international suppliers are located in the United States.

The FVRD is a member of Canoe Procurement (“Canoe”), which is Canada’s largest municipally-focused cooperative purchasing group. Canoe enables its members to access trusted brands and products across a number of industries from reputable national and local vendors and supports members in meeting applicable legislative and trade agreement requirements.

The FVRD is also a member of the British Columbia Social Procurement Initiative (“BCSPI”). BCSPI supports local governments and other large purchasers to follow best practices for social procurement, including ethical purchasing, to create positive social impact in our local communities.

Steps to prevent and reduce the risks of forced labour and child labour

In this reporting year, our approach to preventing and reducing the risks of forced labour or child labour in supply chain has been to focus on our continued work with Canoe and BCSPI to adopt ethical purchasing practices. By working with these organizations, we have a stronger voice in improving transparency over the risks of forced labour and child labour in Canada’s supply chain. In addition, we have continued to apply our existing *Code of Conduct* and Procurement Policy to set standards of ethical practice, fairness and transparency in our procurement decisions.

Policies and due diligence processes

We have adopted policies that establish our commitment to ethical conduct, human rights and respect for dignity.

Our *Code of Conduct* communicates our expectation that our employees and volunteers will respect human rights and prohibits unethical or illegal acts. The *Code of Conduct* provides that all employees have the right to expect, as well as the responsibility to create, a safe workplace where everyone’s dignity is respected. Compliance with the *Code of Conduct* is a condition of employment. Any employee who fails to comply with our standards may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Our *Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment Policy* prohibits behavior which violates the fundamental rights, dignity and integrity of workers and members of our communities. This policy applies to all employees, as well as our Board Members, contractors, students and volunteers.

Our *Procurement Policy* applies to the procurement of all goods and services, construction and consulting or professional services made by or on behalf of the FVRD. This policy sets standards to require that our procurement decisions are made in a fair, transparent and consistent manner. Employees who procure goods or services on our behalf must act responsibly and professionally with a high degree of integrity in compliance with our policies as well as all applicable laws.

Forced labour and child labour risk

To date, we have not identified risks of forced labour or child labour in our supply chain. The goods we sell are primarily sourced from Canada, and the goods we import are sourced primarily from the United States. Both countries have legal protections for workers safety, wages, age verification and human rights. We will continue to work with our suppliers, Canoe and BCSPI to identify any potential risks, and to adopt ethical purchasing practices.

Remediation measures and remediation of loss of income

To date, we have not identified any risks of forced labour or child labour in our operations or supply chain, and as such has not taken any remediation measures or remediation of loss of income to families as a result of forced labour or child labour.

Employee training

Our employees receive training with respect to our Code of Conduct and workplace policies relating to the human rights of workers. Our employees also have access to training related to ethical sourcing provided through the BCSPI. We have not developed training for our employees specifically on the risks and indicators of forced labour and child labour in the supply chain.

Assessing effectiveness

We have not yet developed formal measures to assess the effectiveness of our approach to preventing and mitigating the risks of forced labour and child labour in our supply chains.

Approval and attestation

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, we attest that we have reviewed the information contained in the report for the entity or entities listed above. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, we attest that the information in the report is true, accurate and complete in all material respects for the purposes of the Act, for the reporting year listed above.

Dated in the City of Chilliwack, British Columbia, this 22 day of May, 2024.

FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT



JASON LUM, CHAIR

I have the authority to bind the Fraser Valley Regional District

FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT



SYLVIA PRANGER, CHAIR

I have the authority to bind the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District