NorQuest College

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May 31, 2024

NorQuest College Report to the Minister of Public Safety Compliance with Bill S-211: Fighting Against Forced Labor and Child Labor in Supply Chains Act

Executive Summary

NorQuest College is committed to ethical practices and the eradication of forced labor within our supply chains. This report outlines our current status and future plans to comply with the requirements of Bill S-211.

Current Status

As of the current fiscal year, NorQuest College does not have established processes to measure forced labor in our supply chains. Recognizing the importance of this issue, we are taking proactive steps to address this gap.

Entity Overview

The following is an overview of our entity <u>in accordance with the reporting</u> requirements outlined in Section 11(3) of Bill S-211:

a) Structure, Activities, and Supply Chains

NorQuest College is a college created under the *Post-Secondary*Learning Act of Alberta. Its primary operations involve teaching and learning. The purchase of goods through supply chains would be related to the provision of teaching and learning. Our institution comprises various departments, including academic programs, administrative services, and auxiliary services (such as the bookstore). Our supply chains involve vendors, service providers, and contractors.





b) Policies and Due Diligence Processes

We are in the process of developing a **Social Procurement Policy** that will explicitly address forced labor and child labor. Additionally, a **Supplier Management and Performance program** is underway. These initiatives will enhance our due diligence processes and ensure compliance with ethical standards.

c) Risk Assessment and Mitigation

The following areas within our business and supply chains carry a higher risk of forced labor or child labor:

• **Bookstore Goods**: Clothing, gift items, and promotional items sold in our bookstore.

Steps Taken to Assess and Manage Risk:

- Supplier Due Diligence: We will assess suppliers in the bookstore category more rigorously once our Social Procurement Policy and Supplier Management Program is in place in the upcoming fiscal year.
- **Contract Clause**: In all contracts with suppliers, we will require a warranty that there is no use of forced labour or child labour in the provision of goods and services
- **Collaboration**: We plan to collaborate with industry associations and other institutions to share best practices.

d) Remediation of Forced Labor or Child Labor

While we currently lack specific measures, our future approach will include:

• **Immediate Action**: Ceasing business with any supplier involved in forced labor or child labor.



- **Investigation**: Investigating the root cause and collaborating with relevant authorities.
- **Remediation Plans**: Developing plans to address any identified issues.

e) Measures to Remediate Loss of Income

We recognize that eliminating forced labor or child labor may impact vulnerable families. Our future measures will include:

- **Community Support**: Collaborating with local organizations to provide support to affected families.
- **Alternative Livelihoods**: Exploring opportunities for income generation beyond exploitative practices.

f) Training on Forced Labor and Child Labor

Once our policies are in place, we will provide regular training to our employees, including:

- Awareness: Educating employees about the signs of forced labor and child labor
- **Reporting Mechanisms**: Establishing clear channels for reporting concerns related to labor practices.

g) Assessing Effectiveness

We will evaluate our efforts through:

- **Metrics**: Tracking key performance indicators related to labor practices.
- **Feedback**: Gathering feedback from employees, suppliers, and stakeholders.
- **Continuous Improvement**: Regularly reviewing and enhancing our processes.



Proactive Measures and Future Plans for Compliance with Bill S-211

NorQuest College has long been committed to ethical practices and the well-being of individuals in our community. In alignment with these values, we had initiated the development of a Social Procurement Policy and a Supplier Performance Program well before the introduction of Bill S-211. These initiatives were born out of our dedication to social responsibility and a desire to lead by example in our industry.

- Social Procurement Policy: Our Social Procurement Policy, which was
 already in the planning stages, is designed to ensure that our suppliers
 uphold the same high standards of labor practices that we do. This
 policy will enable us to evaluate potential suppliers on various social
 criteria, including their track record on forced labor and child labor. The
 implementation of this policy, scheduled for the 2025 fiscal year, will
 solidify our commitment to ethical sourcing.
- Supplier Performance Program: Similarly, the Supplier Performance Program was conceived as a means to monitor and manage supplier conduct continuously. This program will involve systematic audits and assessments to ensure ongoing compliance with our ethical standards. Suppliers will be expected to demonstrate their commitment to fair labor practices, and we will have measures in place to address any discrepancies that arise. This program Is also scheduled to launch within the 2025 fiscal year.

These pre-existing initiatives demonstrate NorQuest College's foresight and commitment to ethical operations. With the advent of Bill S-211, we are well-positioned to not only meet but exceed the requirements set forth, ensuring that our supply chains are free from forced and child labor. Our proactive



approach underscores our resolve to be at the forefront of ethical practices in supply chain management.

Reporting Requirements Compliance

<u>In accordance with the reporting requirements of Bill S-211, NorQuest College</u> will:

- Prepare an annual report detailing the steps taken to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labor in our supply chain.
- 2. **Obtain approval and attestation** from the appropriate governing body.
- 3. Complete the online questionnaire provided by Public Safety Canada.
- 4. **Upload the completed report** in PDF format to the online questionnaire portal.
- 5. **Publish the report** on NorQuest College's website and ensure it is accessible to the public.
- 6. **Monitor Compliance** with Bill S-211 on an annual basis to ensure NorQuest is meeting legislative obligations

Conclusion

NorQuest College is dedicated to upholding the principles of Bill S-211 and will continue to develop and implement measures to ensure our supply chains are free from forced labor.



Consent Statement: By signing this report, I, the undersigned, confirm that the information provided herein accurately reflects NorQuest College's efforts and intentions regarding compliance with Bill S-211. I authorize the submission of this report to the Minister of Public Safety.

Krysta Wetterberg Digitally signed by Krysta Wetterberg
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