



Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Report

For the period April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023

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Athabasca University

Proudly situated in Athabasca, AU is honoured to serve as Alberta's and Canada's only open university, providing more than 35,000 students with accessible and flexible online bachelors, masters, and doctoral programs, as well as professional and personal development courses and micro-credentials.

The university provides educational services to students in Canada and throughout the world. Part of this service includes providing textbooks and other course materials, which are purchased from suppliers both within and outside of Canada. These course materials are packaged and provided to students as part of the registration process. All course materials are supplied to students as a course package; the university does not sell individual items to students.

The university also engages in primary research, which occasionally requires specialized equipment which may be sourced from Canadian or international suppliers. As part of its marketing and promotional efforts, the university purchases some branded material such as sweaters, hats, and other items.

As the university is in Athabasca, Alberta, all of the university's employees reside in Canada. Although the university provides the flexibility for many of its staff to work remotely, all are required to live in Canada. The university does engage various specialists on a contract-for-service basis to assist with various functions, including but not limited to, course development, instructional services, specialized information technology services, and other administrative duties.

Fighting against Forced Labour and Child Labour Statement

[An Act to enact the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act and to amend the Customs Tariff](#) (the Act) requires certain entities to submit a report to the Minister of Public Safety. As AU is located in Alberta and has more than \$20 million in assets, \$40 million in revenue, and averages more than 250 employees, it has prepared this report to fulfill its obligations under the Act.

Risk Management in our Supply Chains

The requirements under the Act are new, and this report covers the period from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023. Therefore, the university has not conducted a specific audit of its supply chains. The university is governed by external trade legislations and agreements that seek to create ethical, fair and free access to trade markets, such as The Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement and the New West Trade Partnership Agreement. When selecting its suppliers, the university considers the vendor's reputation, stability, reliability, quality of products and services, and competitive pricing. All procurements for the university are conducted in accordance with the [Supply Chain Canada Code of Ethics for Professionals in the field of Supply Chain Management](#), which includes a requirement that the university will be cognizant of the social

rights extended to all people, including the conventions of the International Labour Organization with respect to labour standards.

Our Policies and Due Diligence Regarding Forced Labour and Child Labour

The university's Code of Conduct for Members of the University Community, along with its values, align well with the Act. Given the recent adoption of the Act, the university does not yet have a specific policy or process in place focused on forced labour and child labour. However, the vast majority of the university's business is conducted in Canada, and therefore, AU assesses the risk of forced labour and child labour in supply chains to be low.

The university is not aware of any instances of forced or child labour in our supply chain and therefore no remedial measures have been taken.

Key Performance Indicators

The university will develop and implement necessary key performance indicators (KPIs) related to forced labour and child labour to ensure compliance.

Action Plan

The university's values underpin its commitment to the fight against forced labour and child labour. As such, the university endeavours to take the following actions to further mitigate any risks in its supply chain:

- Identify all suppliers located outside of Canada
- Perform a risk assessment of all such suppliers to determine the level of risk related to forced labour and child labour
- Developing an action plan for addressing any risks identified
- Provide training and increasing awareness of the risks of forced labour and child labour for decision-makers who influence supplier selection

Approval and Attestation

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in the report for Athabasca University. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I 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 beginning April 1, 2022, and ending March 31, 2023.

Signed:



Byron Nelson
Chair, the Governors of Athabasca University
I have the authority to bind the corporation.

May 31, 2024

Date