



## PART 1 : IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

\* **Name of government institution: Veterans Affairs Canada**

\* **Financial reporting year: April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024**

## 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
- Distributing goods
  - in Canada
  - outside Canada

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

Veterans Affairs Canada's (VAC) mandate is to support the well-being of Veterans and their families, and to promote recognition and remembrance of the achievements and sacrifices of those who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace.

VAC has approximately 4000 full time employees.

VAC awards approximately 1000 contracts per year with a total annual value of \$40,000,000.

GSIN	Description	2023-2024 Annual total value	Purchase location	Distribution location(s)
N7030	Automatic Data Processing Software	\$2,606,213	Canada, United States	Canada
N7025	Automatic Data Processing Input-Output and Storage Devices	\$2,487,615	Canada	Canada, France
N7110	Office Furniture	\$682,211	Canada	Canada
N7510	Office Supplies	\$319,655	Canada	Canada
N5800	Communication Detection and	\$307,864	Canada	Canada



	Coherent Radiation Equipment			
N2310	Passenger Motor Vehicles	\$266,134	Canada	Canada
N6350	Miscellaneous alarm, signal, and security detection systems	\$160,876	Canada	Canada

**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**

VAC 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, VAC 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, VAC undertakes activities under its own procurement authority, independently of the aforementioned PSPC tools.

During the previous fiscal year we purchased goods and services under our own procurement authority in the following areas:

GSIN	Description	Total Annual Value 2023-2024
N7030	Automatic Data Processing Software	\$166,018
N7025	Automatic Data Processing Input-Output and Storage Devices	\$5451.00
N7110	Office Furniture	\$50,899
N7510	Office Supplies	\$11,116
N5800	Communication Detection and Coherent Radiation Equipment	\$42,370
N6350	Miscellaneous alarm, signal, and security detection systems	\$7067



### 2.3 Information on the 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 procurements.

Pursuant to the aforementioned amendments, our department has integrated the Code into our procurements, 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

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 key strategies for PSPC to leverage public spending power to raise awareness about forced labour in supply chains.

We have familiarized ourselves with information on the risk assessment provided by PSPC, and are 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

Not applicable, we have not identified any forced labour or child labour in our activities and supply chains.



**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**

Not applicable, we have not identified any loss of income to vulnerable families resulting from measures taken to eliminate the use of forced labour or child labour in our activities and supply chains.

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

We are aware that PSPC is currently developing awareness-raising guidance materials (including risk mitigation strategies) for suppliers, targeted towards high-risk sectors. We are 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**

No measures have been taken to assess effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in VAC's activities and supply chains. VAC will monitor PSPC's assessment mechanisms and will leverage best practices as PSPC shares them.