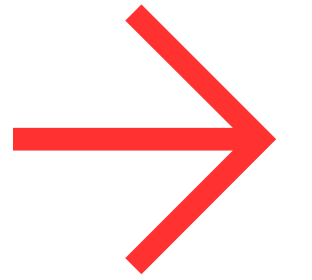


2023



CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN FOR CANADA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01. About the Circular Economy Action Plan	2
Our Vision	4
<hr/>	
02. Key Enablers	5
Information	6
Collaboration	7
Innovation	8
Policy	9
Investment	10
<hr/>	
03. Priority Actions	11

ABOUT

Recalibrating Canada's economy to align its goals for prosperity, while delivering on environmental commitments and social values, necessitates the collective actions of all stakeholders, including government, business, and civil society. The circular economy offers that opportunity.

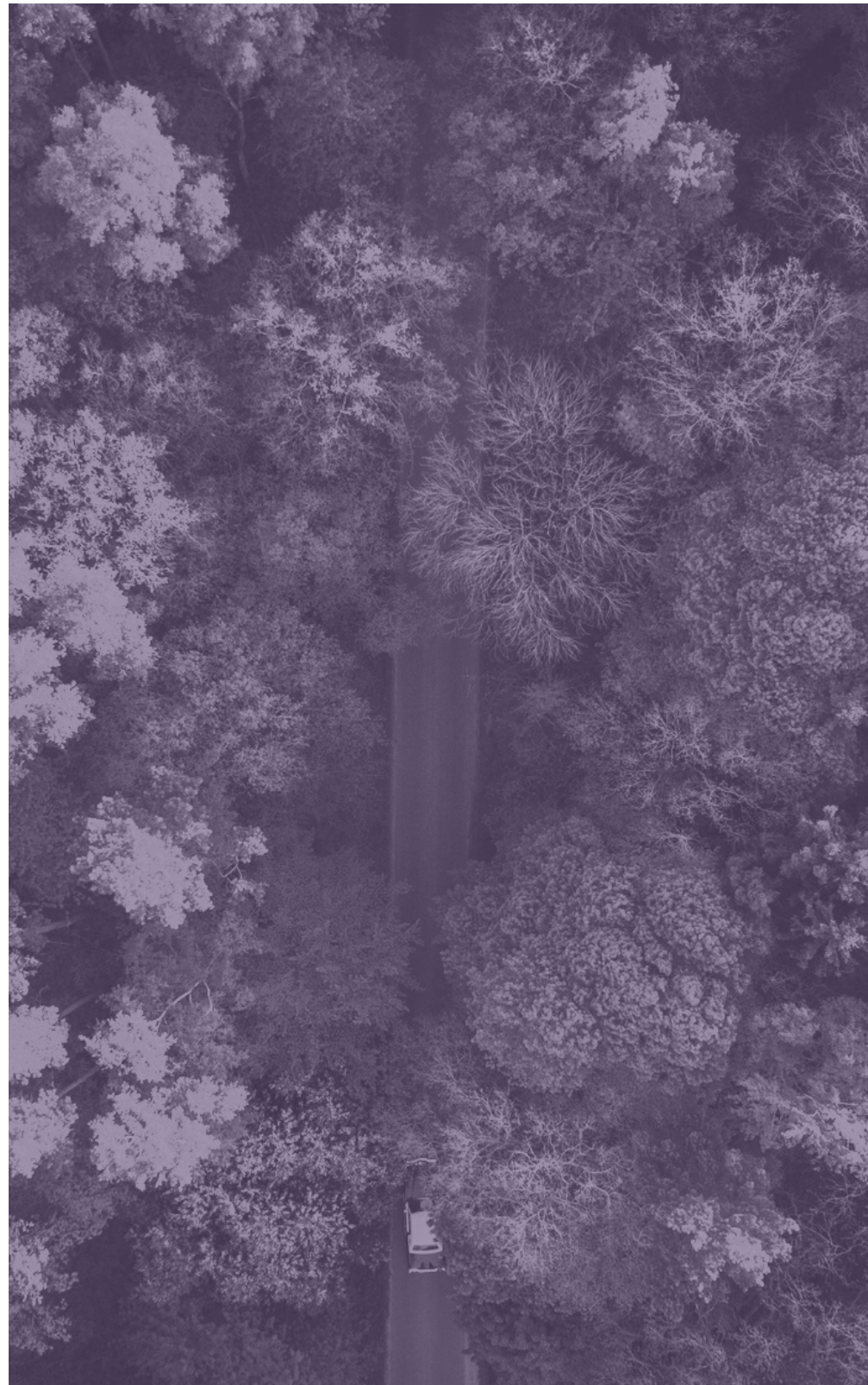
The CE Summit's co-leads, Circular Economy Leadership Canada (CELC) and the Circular Innovation Council (CIC), have designed this strategic CE Action Plan to be a 'working blueprint', organized under five key enablers which include a number of longer-term outcome statements and more specific near-term tactics or priority actions for each. This CE Action Plan is intended to chart an implementation framework to accelerate Canada towards circularity in several important areas simultaneously.

THE CANADIAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUMMIT 2023

This first of its kind Circular Economy Action Plan for Canada represents proceedings from the [2023 Canadian Circular Economy Summit](#) (Toronto, Canada) and is the combined reflections of its panel discussions, keynote addresses, workshops and individual feedback gathered from more than 400 attendees during and post event. The 2023 CE Summit agenda was specifically designed to emphasize the capacity for circular economy practices to advance on Canada's climate change commitments as well as its interlinkages to resource and biodiversity protection. Subject areas were carefully curated to include a variety of cross cutting issues (policy, procurement, standards), as well as specific themes (materials and sectors), offering all stakeholders content that was aligned to their interest and expertise. This CE Action Plan is similarly designed and will be permanently offered to users as a 'living' resource on the Circular Economy Summit website www.circulareconomysummit.ca

CELC and CIC would like to acknowledge the contributions made of its CE Summit collaborators and partners, as well as all CE Summit attendees.





THE PROMISE OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The circular economy has the capacity to deliver on all of Canada’s environmental commitments, as well as many additional policy priorities:

- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Net Zero Emissions by 2050](#)
- [Halting and reversing nature loss in Canada by 2030 / Achieving full recovery for nature by 2050](#)
- [Zero Plastic Waste Agenda](#)
- [Greening Government Agenda](#)
- [Building a Nation of Innovators](#)
- [Net Zero Accelerator Initiative](#)
- [Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy](#)
- [The Food Policy for Canada](#)

PURPOSE OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLAN FOR CANADA

The intended purpose of this CE Action Plan is three-fold:

- The CE Action Plan is meant as an open-source guide to enable a better understanding of the circular economy and offer ‘on ramps’ for stakeholders to participate in its implementation by supporting its priority actions.
- As co-leads, CELC and CIC intend to use the CE Action Plan to guide strategic direction, as well as provide a template to build agendas for future Canadian Circular Economy Summit events, including the next CE Summit event to be hosted in Montréal, Québec in the spring of 2025.
- The CE Action Plan and progress on its outcomes and priority actions will also become an outline for future CE initiatives and other related events.

ENABLER FRAMEWORK & PRIORITY OUTCOMES



ABOUT

OUR VISION

The circular economy advances a net-zero, nature-positive Canada, supporting economic prosperity through innovation and the well-being of Canadians today and for future generations.

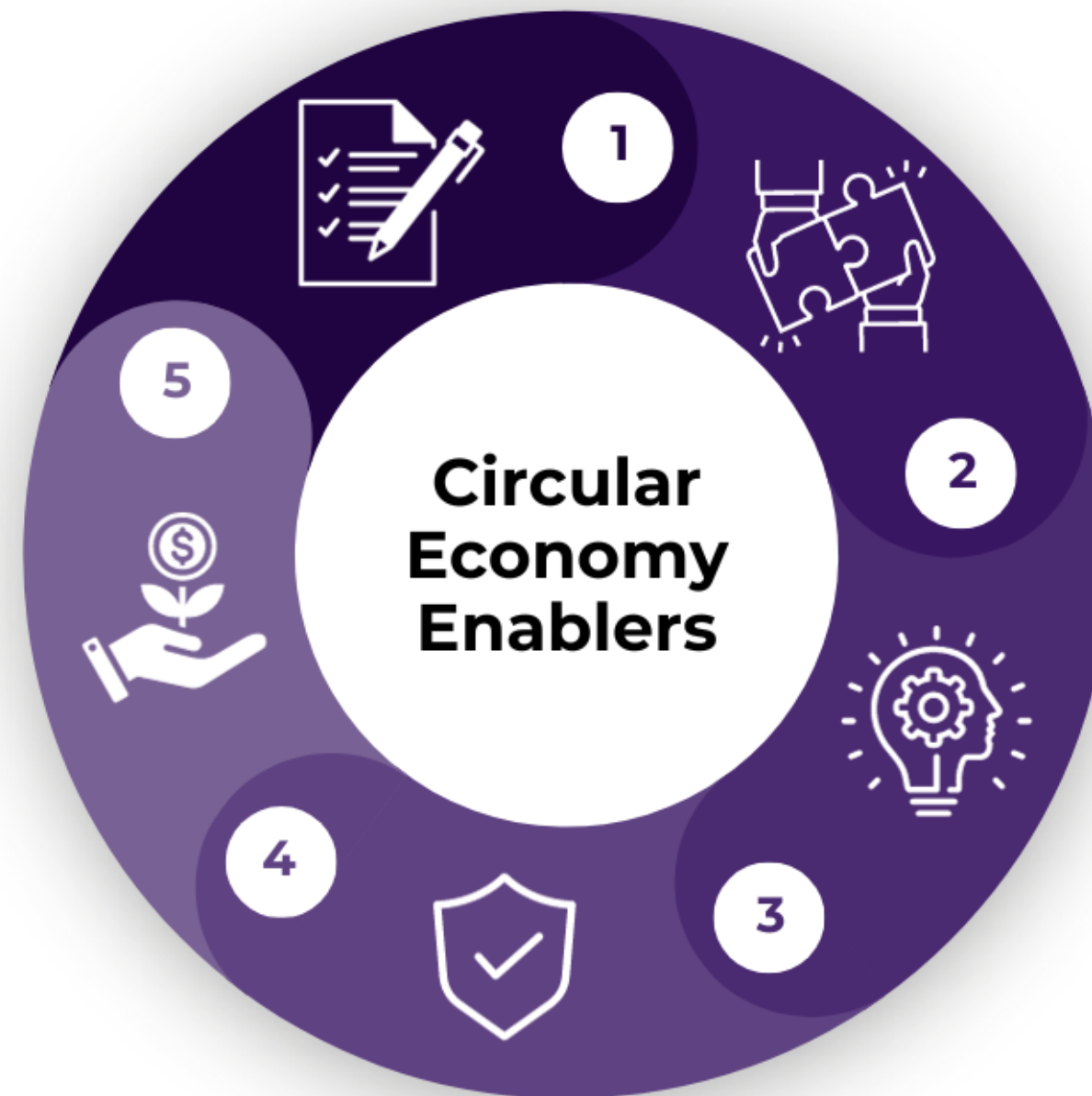


KEY ENABLERS

Developing a CE Action Plan for Canada that outlines near-term priorities and focus areas for advancing the circular economy in Canada was a key objective of the Canadian Circular Economy Summit.

Five key enablers were identified as the primary drivers of the circular economy. These enablers were cross-referenced with previous work in Canada such as the [Circular North America report](#) and the [Turning Point report](#), as well as CE Roadmaps from other countries such as [Finland](#) and [Chile](#). While this CE Action Plan is organized under five distinct enablers, their interconnectedness and multi-stakeholder dependencies underscore the need for collaboration.

These enablers and their respective outcome statements are outlined on the following pages.



- 1 INFORMATION**
Leveraging data, information, education, and training as a foundation for success.
- 2 COLLABORATION**
Establishing new partnerships and cultural connections to accelerate change.
- 3 INNOVATION**
Stimulating circular innovation across industries, sectors, and supply chains.
- 4 POLICY**
Aligning policy, procurement, and standards to drive accelerated circular economy action and investment.
- 5 INVESTMENT**
Directing capital and financing to support circularity and address infrastructure gaps.

ENABLER 1 : INFORMATION



**Leveraging data, education,
and training as a
foundation for success.**



Raising awareness will be essential to advancing the circular economy in Canada, including for circular strategies and solutions that bring economic, social, and environmental benefits. Information and knowledge-sharing are foundational components to this, which must be based on defensible, accessible data, proof points, and evidence-based research. Skills training and education will also be essential for enabling action.

KEY OUTCOMES

A. Canadians (including businesses, governments, investors, general public) broadly support the circular economy through their actions, including support for circular business models, products, services, and investments.

C. The Canadian workforce has the skills and education required to drive and deliver on CE goals and activities.

B. Canadians (including businesses, governments, investors, general public) are leveraging CE strategies and actions to address the triple planetary crises (climate, natural / biodiversity loss, and pollution).

D. Canadians have access to robust, relevant, and accessible data in order to make informed policy and business decisions.



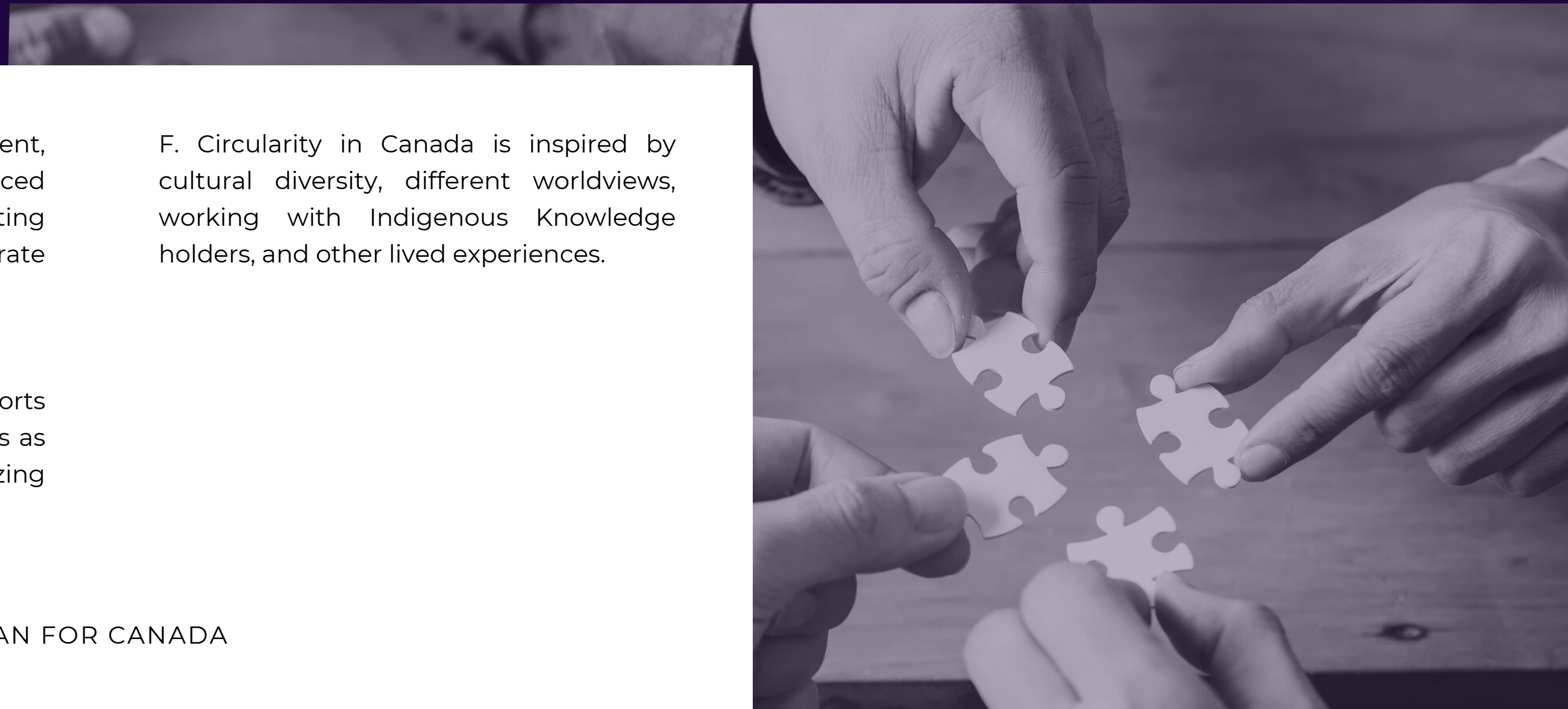
ENABLER 2 : COLLABORATION



Establishing new partnerships and cultural connections to accelerate change.



Transitioning from current linear industries and supply chains to a more circular economy in Canada will require systems-thinking to break down silos and establish new partnerships (domestically and internationally), while leveraging new approaches and collaborative platforms. Supporting the wide-scale adoption of circular practices will also require engaging across cultures and exploring the opportunities and challenges from various perspectives to embrace an inclusive approach to circularity.



KEY OUTCOMES

E. Stakeholders (business, government, academia) are able to leverage enhanced models and platforms for collaborating across circular value chains to accelerate action and the CE transition.

G. Canada has identified and supports trade and collaboration across borders as it relates to accelerating and harmonizing global circular economy efforts.

F. Circularity in Canada is inspired by cultural diversity, different worldviews, working with Indigenous Knowledge holders, and other lived experiences.

ENABLER 3 : INNOVATION



Stimulating circular innovation across industries, sectors, and supply chains.



Innovation is at the core of transforming business practices, industries, and supply chains from their current linear structures to more circular models. Leveraging Canada’s applied research knowledge-base while supporting business model innovation can create triple bottom-line benefits that support economic, social, and environmental objectives.

KEY OUTCOMES

H. Circular business models have become mainstream across Canadian sectors, industries, and supply chains.

J. Canada has applied circular strategies to address challenges in resource intensive (materials and energy) sectors.

I. Canada has a world-leading applied research community focused on accelerating CE innovation.



ENABLER 4 : POLICY



Aligning policy, procurement, and standards to drive accelerated circular economy action and investment.



Establishing a comprehensive, harmonized policy framework across Canada, based on established standards of practice, will help provide certainty and drive circular economy activities and investments. Procurement as a tool can further accelerate the scale up of investments by driving the demand for circular products and services.



KEY OUTCOMES

K. Policy in Canada (including regulation) has integrated circular economy principles and strategies across a broader set of issues beyond waste, including linking to Canada's climate / net zero goals, biodiversity / nature targets, as well as innovation and social agenda.

M. Standards related to circular economy principles and best practices have been developed and widely referenced in Canadian policy, regulation, and codes.

L. Procurement practices and tools are actively driving demand for more circular products and services across Canada.

ENABLER 5 : INVESTMENT



Directing capital and financing to support circularity and address infrastructure gaps.



Finance and investment are critical enablers for the circular economy, mobilizing capital to support business and community efforts while addressing critical infrastructure gaps. Engaging with financial institutions, addressing risks, and improving returns will take a coordinated effort, but must be aligned with business and community priorities.

KEY OUTCOMES

N. The finance sector in Canada is able to advance its GHG emission reduction, nature-positive, social impact, and profitability goals through circular economy related investments and lending practices and programs.

P. Adequate funding exists to support the scale-up and deployment of CE innovation within communities across Canada (in connection with Theme 3 on Innovation).

O. Critical infrastructure gaps (of all types) have been identified and addressed to support an accelerated transition to a more circular economy in Canada.





PRIORITY ACTIONS

Thirty priority actions have been identified under the five enablers and sixteen outcome statements, with short-term horizons that will be revisited every two years during the Canadian Circular Economy Summit to track progress and consider any areas for revised focus.

ENABLER 1: INFORMATION

Outcome (10-year Horizon)	Priority Actions (2-year Horizon)	Stakeholders					
		CELC	CIC	Govt	Industry	NGOs	Academia
A. Canadians (including businesses, governments, investors, general public) broadly support the circular economy through their actions, including support for circular business models, products, services, and investments.	1.1 Develop and aggregate case studies, success stories, and "every day" examples of CE in action across Canada, including its benefits (economic, social, environmental - inline with UN SDGs) and develop a wide-reaching communications / awareness campaign and advocacy plan, working with strategic partners to target key audiences with messaging that resonates.	L	L	S	S	L	S
	1.2 Collaborate to develop standardized and accepted definitions for CE and related terms relevant to the Canadian context.	S	S	L	L	S	S
	1.3 Develop a key performance indicator, metrics, and measurement framework for CE in Canada.	L	S	S	S	S	S
B. Canadians (including businesses, governments, investors, general public) are leveraging CE strategies and actions to address the triple planetary crises (climate, natural / biodiversity loss, and pollution).	1.4 Aggregate evidence / data, undertake new research, and develop case studies clearly demonstrating the linkages between circular strategies / practices and (a) GHG emission reductions and (b) nature loss, and develop targeted communications, advocacy efforts, and implementation tools (including CE benefits into climate literacy programs).	L	L	S	S	S	L
	1.5 Demonstrate and share examples of how circular strategies can support embodied carbon objectives across the construction and built environment value chain (design, materials, asset life extension, deconstruction), connecting both demand and supply side through research, education (e.g., case studies), capacity building (e.g., training), and improved data and standards.	L	S	S	S	S	L
C. The Canadian workforce has the skills and education required to drive and deliver on CE goals and activities.	1.6 Develop an inventory of top 20 occupations / professions essential for advancing circular models and practices and work with relevant professional bodies / organizations to identify curriculum gaps and training tools.		S	S	S		L
D. Canadians have access to robust, relevant, and accessible data in order to make informed policy and business decisions.	1.7 Develop a national data plan and strategy that identifies what data sources and harmonized / standardized formats are essential to supporting improved business and policy decision-making in Canada, aligned with CE principles and activities, including developing national material-flow accounts and intermediary data platforms to allow for the sharing of anonymized data.	S	S	L	L	S	S

L = Lead S = Support

ENABLER 2: COLLABORATION

Outcome (10-year Horizon)	Priority Actions (2-year Horizon)	Stakeholders					
		CELC	CIC	Govt	Industry	NGOs	Academia
E. Stakeholders (business, government, academia) are able to leverage enhanced models and platforms for collaborating across circular value chains to accelerate action and the CE transition.	2.1 Continue to strengthen, support, and expand pre-competitive collaboration models / platforms for knowledge sharing and problem solving / experimentation that bring together industry, government, and academia to advance circular value chains across sectors / materials (such as the Canada Plastics Pact, Canadian Circular Textiles Consortium, Our Food Future initiative, CERIEC's Living Labs, etc.).	S	S	L	L	S	S
	2.2 Investigate the opportunities to support the creation / maintenance and scaling up of digital platforms that facilitate and promote circular business models across Canada.	S	S	L	L	S	S
F. Circularity in Canada is inspired by cultural diversity, different worldviews, working with Indigenous Knowledge holders, and other lived experiences.	2.3 Undertake an exploration, including with Indigenous Knowledge Holders, of how different worldviews and cultural values could inform the CE transition in Canada and help communicate CE principles to different audiences.			S		L	S
	2.4 Partner with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis leaders and organizations to inform, activate, and implement Canada's CE Action Plan.	S	S				
	2.5 Undertake research on how to grow circular culture (habits, practices, patterns of use / reuse, and accessibility) in line with the motivational profiles of the Canadian population and applying a social equity lens (leveraging existing work on this topic).	S	S	S	S	S	L
	2.6 Explore options to develop more community-based programs that build an awareness and understanding for CE across Canada inline with different cultures, including at the K-12 level.		S	S	S		L
G. Canada has identified and supports trade and collaboration across borders as it relates to accelerating and harmonizing global circular economy efforts.	2.7 Collaborate with international organizations and government agencies to support knowledge sharing and harmonize policy, procurement, standards, business innovations, and trade initiatives with respect to circular products, services, and supply chains, including areas such as cross-border material flows and technologies.	S	S	L	L	S	S

L = Lead S = Support

ENABLER 3 : INNOVATION

Outcome (10-year Horizon)	Priority Actions (2-year Horizon)	Stakeholders					
		CELC	CIC	Govt	Industry	NGOs	Academia
H. Circular business models have become mainstream across Canadian sectors, industries, and supply chains.	3.1 Launch a national circular business accelerator program to support existing / established businesses of all sizes across Canada to adopt more circular business models, engaging with their suppliers and customers to create more circular value chains and leverage industrial symbioses. Additionally, this program can foster a collaborative environment where companies across sectors can share experiences, learn from each other, and potentially form partnerships that enhance the overall impact of circular economy solutions.	S	S	S	S	L	S
	3.2 Develop and expand programs that enable product-as-a-service, sharing, reuse, repair, and value retention (e.g., remanufacturing) focused businesses in Canada, using an affordability and equity lens, making it easier and more attractive for the public to participate in these models.	S	S	L	S	S	
	3.3 Expand support for CE start-ups through an incubator program network across Canada in collaboration with industry and government partners as first adopters. These programs can be designed to support early-stage ventures with mentoring, access to funding, market validation, and business planning / development resources.		S	S	S	L	S
I. Canada has a world-leading applied research community focused on accelerating CE innovation.	3.4 Launch a Canada-wide CE Challenge program linking applied research centres and centres of excellence that have funding with industry in a coordinated fashion to foster connections with start-ups and SMEs, and leveraging CE-focused incubator, accelerator, and 'living lab' programs to de-risk innovation and bring solutions to scale.	S	S	L	S		L
J. Canada has applied circular strategies to address challenges in resource intensive (materials and energy) sectors.	3.5 Scale the adoption of regenerative and zero-waste agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry practices through financial incentives, grants, harmonized policies, standards, and technical support to industry in order to transition towards regenerative and net-zero practices, demonstrations, and research collaborations, tied to climate mitigation and adaptation goals (building on existing efforts by industry and governments in Canada, including groups such as CANZA).	S	S	S	L	L	S
	3.6 Advance research and activities that encourage circular strategies and policies within critical mineral and metal value chains of importance to Canada's net-zero goals (including strategies such as design for disassembly, reuse, refurbishment, and recycling at end-of-life of products, such as renewable energy technologies and EV batteries, to recover the value of these resources).	L	S	S	S		L

ENABLER 4 : POLICY

Outcome (10-year Horizon)	Priority Actions (2-year Horizon)	Stakeholders					
		CELC	CIC	Govt	Industry	NGOs	Academia
<p>K. Policy in Canada (including regulation) has integrated circular economy principles and strategies across a broader set of issues beyond waste, including linking to Canada's climate / net zero goals, biodiversity / nature targets, as well as innovation and social agenda.</p>	<p>4.1 Develop and align policies that encourage businesses to adopt circular design principles, standards, and manufacturing processes. Some of regulatory tools and options with the greatest potential for driving the circular economy include: expanded EPR programs; reuse; recycled content targets and standards; and Right-to-Repair legislation. Incentives should address legal risks, reducing a company's liability related to managing recovered / recycled materials and/or incorporating them into new products.</p>	S	L	L	S	S	
	<p>4.2 Integrate life cycle GHG emission and carbon disclosure policies and reporting requirements within supply chains and within procurement requirements.</p>		S	L	L		S
	<p>4.3 Develop a government-to-government 'circular economy policy incubator' to break down silos and support strategic multi-disciplinary thinking and planning, enabling the systems approach needed for accelerating a circular economy, innovation, and social impact, as well as providing a mechanism for pooling funds to support research and scaling solutions.</p>	L	L	L		S	
	<p>4.4 Continue engaging with industry to explore where and how to expand provincially-harmonized extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy and/or resource recovery programs in areas of highest impact, including within targeted industrial sectors (e.g., agricultural plastics, construction, etc.)</p>		S	L	S		
<p>L. Procurement practices and tools are actively driving demand for more circular products and services across Canada.</p>	<p>4.5 Launch more public-private partnerships (e.g., buying groups) focused on standardizing circular procurement in strategic sectors and/or for circular products, services, and materials, as well as government procurement initiatives that standardize procurement and drive circular outcomes. This can include referencing circular economy relevant standards in procurement documents and tenders.</p>		L	L	L	S	
	<p>4.6 Coordinate and create demand for using the buy less, buy better, and use better principles and incent CE business model innovations by transitioning procurement (public and private) criteria to focus on outcomes that deliver economic and social value.</p>		L	S	S		
<p>M. Standards related to circular economy principles and best practices have been developed and widely referenced in Canadian policy, regulation, and codes.</p>	<p>4.7 Identify where standards and better information (e.g., labelling) can help improve the understanding of, address risks related to, and drive demand for circular business models, products, and services, while continuing to invest in research to develop standards where gaps exist.</p>	S	S	S	S	L	S

L = Lead S = Support

ENABLER 5: INVESTMENT

Outcome (10-year Horizon)	Priority Actions (2-year Horizon)	Stakeholders					
		CELC	CIC	Govt	Industry	NGOs	Academia
N. The finance sector in Canada is able to advance its GHG emission reduction, nature-positive, social impact, and profitability goals through circular economy related investments and lending practices and programs.	5.1 Engage the finance sector to identify key risks for investors / lenders, help financial institutions better understand the needs of circular businesses to enhance lending, investment solutions, and financing options (e.g., microloans, low-interest loans, innovative leasing, etc.), and expand sustainable finance taxonomy work in Canada to include circular economy.	L	L		S		S
O. Critical infrastructure gaps (of all types) have been identified and addressed to support an accelerated transition to a more circular economy in Canada.	5.2 Work with the public and private sector to undertake research (where needed) and identify critical technology and infrastructure gaps related to waste prevention, reuse, resource recovery, and recycling for key materials or sectors (e.g., plastics, construction / deconstruction, organics, etc.), and advocate for investments to close these gaps where needed - including related to reuse, sortation, and recycling facilities (MRFs, reclaimers, recyclers, composting facilities, warehousing for secondary material storage, etc.).	L	L	S	S	S	
P. Adequate funding exists to support the scale-up and deployment of CE innovation within communities across Canada (in connection with Theme 3 on Innovation).	5.3 Create a grant-based funding program that invests in place-based "circular innovation hubs" and regenerative local economies, encouraging public-private sector collaboration, planning, and projects that tackle local issues / barriers and advance opportunities specific to these communities, generating new businesses, jobs, and more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive communities (examples of existing hubs in Canada include COIL in Ontario and Metal Tech Alley in British Columbia). Grants should be accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, including universities, think-tanks, start-ups, and established businesses.	S	S	L	S	S	

L = Lead S = Support



Circular Economy Leadership Canada and Circular Innovation Council look forward to working with our Partners, industry, governments, communities and other stakeholders across the ecosystem to advance this Circular Economy Action Plan for Canada.

Learn more about CELC and CIC:

www.circulareconomyleaders.ca

www.circularinnovation.ca