

# Presentation to the Sustainability Network

3 June 2021



Office of the  
Auditor General  
of Canada

Bureau du  
vérificateur général  
du Canada

# Reflections from Canada's New Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development



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# What the CESD does

- Established via 1995 amendments to the *Auditor General Act*:
  - Appointed by Auditor General of Canada
  - Typically reports to Parliament in Spring and Fall annually
  - Audits federal programs related to the environment and sustainable development
  - Comments on draft Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS), examines fairness of FSDS progress reports, and reviews the implementation of departmental sustainable development strategies (SDS)
  - Manages the environmental petitions process
  - Engages internationally (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs))



# Past reports



## 2021

- Implementing the UN SDGs
- Natural Health Products

## 2020

- Transportation of Dangerous Goods

## 2019

- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Protecting Fish from Mining Effluent
- Fossil Fuel Subsidies (2)

## 2018

- Toxic Substances
- Protecting Marine Mammals
- Salmon Farming
- Preparedness to Implement UN SDGs
- Conserving Biodiversity
- Climate Change Action (collaborative)

## 2017

- Reducing Greenhouse Gases
- Adapting to Climate Change Impacts
- Funding Clean Energy Technologies

**Annual:** Departmental SDS, Petitions  
**Every 3 years:** FSDS



# Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

## Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

- Review and comments on the draft FSDS (every 3 years)
- Report to Parliament on the fairness of the information in the government's progress report on FSDS (every 3 years)

## Departmental sustainable development strategies

- Assess implementation and progress annually





# Environmental Petitions— A voice for Canadian residents

- Any Canadian resident or organization can bring concerns about environmental issues to the attention of federal ministers
- Petitioners receive a formal response directly from federal ministers
- Process set out in section 22 of *Auditor General Act*
  - now nearly 100 entities subject to petitions process (up from 28)
- Process used for a variety of reasons and requests
- Petitions sometimes followed by government action on the issue raised
- More information at [www.oag-bvg.gc.ca](http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca), [petitions@oag-bvg.gc.ca](mailto:petitions@oag-bvg.gc.ca) or call 1-888-761-5953



# Upcoming work



## 2021

- Water Basins
- Emissions Reduction Fund
- Climate Change Retrospective

## 2022

- Just Transition
- Federal Carbon Pricing Benchmark
- Climate Resilient Infrastructure
- Greening Government Strategy
- Hydrogen in Canada's Energy System
- Study of Climate Risk Disclosure
- Nuclear Waste Management

**Annual:** Departmental SDS, Petitions  
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# Priorities

- Climate change
- Sustainable development
- Biodiversity
- Pollution and other issues





# We'd like to hear from you...

- How do you think we can improve our work?
  - Reports, petitions...
- Contact us at: [communications@oag-bvg.gc.ca](mailto:communications@oag-bvg.gc.ca)



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# Thank you!



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