



## CHANGE FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATION (CFCA) ENVIRONMENT POLICY

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### Purpose

CFCA's vision is a world with human dignity, health communities, and global justice. A safe, sustainable world with a healthy environment is critical to achievement of our vision.

CFCA is committed to being an environmentally proactive organization and to operating in an environmentally sustainable way across all facets of the organization.

CFCA's environment policy and practices will respect and comply with existing jurisdictional legislation, international law, and accepted best practice related to the environmental impacts of our work.

With the adoption of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) in November 2017, Change for Children recognizes that environmental health is essential for development. The organization is committed to, where possible, include the appropriate indicators from the relevant goals in project design and implementation, such as: clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), combat climate change (SDG 13), and protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of the land (SDG 15).

### Principles

As an environmentally proactive organization, CFCA recognises the following principles:

- its governance and operations in Canada and internationally have environmental impacts;
- CFCA must minimize the negative environmental impacts of its operations, and promote environmentally sustainable ways in all aspects of governance and operations;
- all individuals working (volunteer or paid) with CFCA need to be aware and engaged in order to build an environmentally proactive organization;
- monitoring and evaluation of progress on the implementation of the organizational environment policy is necessary to achieve objectives.

## **Objectives and Strategies**

These are the objectives and strategies that CFCA will use to manage and mitigate its environmental impact and to foster global environmental health in: 1) governance and operations, 2) programs and projects, and 3) public image and communications.

### **1. Governance and Operations**

- Staff, board members and volunteers are accountable for using our resources responsibly for purposes that meet our goals.
- CFCA is proactive in minimising our production of waste and reusing or recycling materials.
- CFCA considers and implements strategies to reduce energy usage in our Edmonton offices, particularly for electricity and heating.
- CFCA monitors and minimises the environmental impact of road, rail and air travel by encouraging the use of travel options that minimise environmental impact in addition to exploring new ways of executing our work sustainably.
- CFCA minimises the consumption and wastage of natural resources as far as reasonably and economically practicable.
- CFCA ensures that consideration is given to purchasing environmentally sustainable products and services, and develop sustainable supply chains by using supplies that have environmental standards compatible with its own.

### **2. Programs and Projects**

- CFCA promotes rights-based programming and projects that support people living in poverty and exclusion to effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change and to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.
- All projects supported by CFCA are screened for their environmental impact. Projects which have significant negative environmental impacts will not be supported by CFCA. If appropriate, an environmental management plan is developed to mitigate negative environmental effects.
- An environmental assessment and construction plan is prepared and approved before construction of all physical works and infrastructure. The plan includes measures to minimize negative environmental impacts, and where possible, improve environmental conditions.
- CFCA works with partner organizations that have similar environmental values and have a formal environmental policy. Prospective partners that do not have an environmental policy will be encouraged, and where necessary assisted, to develop one.
- An environmental standards clause is written in to all Memorandums of Understanding with partners and into all Project Agreements.

- Compliance with the principles outlined above is monitored throughout the life of the project or program, and documented in the regular reporting cycle.
- CFCA captures and institutionalizes organizational learning regarding specific successful environmental strategies and results.

### **3. Public Image and Communications**

- As much as possible, CFCA minimizes the use of paper in its communications with the public, Board members, staff and volunteers, and promotes the use of alternative paperless mediums, such as digital means.
- CFCA highlights environmental aspects of its projects and programs, and shares stories of environmental conditions, climate change, and efforts towards a healthy planet in its communications with association members and the public.
- CFCA shares good practice for promoting environment justice with our partners and peers.

#### **Accountability**

Each year, the CFCA Annual Plan, approved by the Board of Directors, will include specific plans on how this policy will be implemented and evaluated in the current year. The CFCA Executive Director is responsible to lead the implementation of this policy, and to report progress annually to the Board.

*Approved by CFCA Board, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018*

*Date for Review: April, 2021*