Bill C-57, an Act to Amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act
Federal Sustainable Development Act, 2008

- The Federal Sustainable Development Act (the Act) was tabled as a Private Member’s Bill and passed with all-party approval in June 2008.

- Its purpose is to:
  “…provide the legal framework for developing and implementing a Federal Sustainable Development Strategy that will make environmental decision-making more transparent and accountable to Parliament.”

- The Act requires:
  - A Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) be produced and updated every 3 years;
  - A 120-day public consultation period on the draft FSDS with specific stakeholders;
  - Individual departmental sustainable development strategies; and
  - A progress report every 3 years.

- 26 Departments and agencies must contribute; others participate voluntarily
2016 Report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI)

- **Recommendations:**

  1. Expand the purpose and scope of sustainable development in the Act
  2. Enable a whole-of-government approach and central agency involvement
  3. Add well-accepted SD principles
  4. Expand role of parliamentary committees
  5. Expand number of federal bodies preparing SD strategies
  6. Add SDGs and international commitments
  7. Set criteria for FSDS targets
  8. (a,b) Increase frequency of strategies and progress reports; (c) Clarify performance-based contracts
  9. Simplify FSDS progress reports
  10. Improve enforceability and accountability
  11. Establish an advocate for future generations
  12. Engage Canadians
  13. Report back in one year
Bill C-57, an Act to Amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act

- Introduced June 19, 2017
- Responds to ENVI’s recommendations
- Shifts the Act’s focus from planning and reporting to results
- Increases accountability of departments and agencies
- Promotes collaboration and coordinated action across government
- Sets a higher bar for transparency
Key issues raised in the House of Commons

• The definition of sustainable development
• Principles (e.g. the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Sustainable Development Goals)
• Government leadership on sustainable development
Amendments in the House of Commons

• Add principles (sustainable development, intergenerational equity, collaboration, etc.)
• Take into account comments made during public consultations when developing organizational sustainable development strategies
• Members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council (SDAC) may be paid reasonable expenses
• Include targets that are measurable and time-bound
• Increase number of Indigenous representatives on SDAC
• Review of the Act once within every 5 years
Amendments in the Senate

• Broaden the mandate of SDAC (accepted)
• Clarify that performance-based contracts include employment contracts (not-accepted)
• Make consequential amendments to the Auditor General Act (accepted)
Current status and next steps

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