

BRIEFING NOTE: Accountability

for Inclusion in the Regulations of The Sustainable Development Goals Act
July 2021

RECOMMENDED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES:

- Require the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to prepare assessment reports which include the following to ensure an adequate information and transparency from the annual reporting:
 - Specific information on GHG inventories, such as sectoral emission reduction
 - Specific information on pathways, such as the emission projection per year to the Net Zero 2050 goal that includes information on absolute emission reduction projections and offsets used to achieve this target.
 - In addition to a progress report, Require Minister to address and provide reasons for failure to meet any of the goals set out in the SDGA, and how the deficit will be accounted for and adjusted in forthcoming years
 - Require the Minister to consult and include advice from the Round Table in the annual report
- In addition to the goals embedded in the Act, create interim climate objectives that will provide more clarity on the decarbonisation pathway, and improve the likeliness of achieving the 2030 and 2050 targets stated in the Act.
- Direct the Environment and Sustainability Roundtable to conduct annual assessment of the SDGA, that does not need to be triggered by a request from the ministers.
- Devote additional resources to the enforcement of environmental laws, including ministerial orders issued under the Environment Act as well as Environment Act offences prosecuted by Nova Scotia's Public Prosecution Service.



RATIONALE:

- Improving accountability of the SDGA also improves the predictability of climate action, augmenting certainty for investors, businesses, municipal and federal governments and the public.
- Enacting more stringent climate accountability regulations will enhance the likelihood of achieving long-term goals such as of net zero emissions by 2050.
- As it stands the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" is the primary planning requirement of the SDGA, however, it is not clear whether the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" will simply provide high-level descriptions of the measures the Government of Nova Scotia intends to take to achieve the goals of the Act. We recommend that regulations require that the "Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth" include interim GHG reduction targets in addition to the goals set out in the Act.

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