



# Buy Social Canada's Social Procurement Policy

Walking the Talk on Social Procurement

## Policy Statement

Every purchase has an economic, cultural, environmental, and social impact, whether intended or not. Social procurement captures those impacts and seeks to make intentional positive contributions to both the local economy and the overall vibrancy of the community.

Our mission at Buy Social Canada is to contribute to building healthy communities across Canada. One of the ways we work towards our mission is by implementing social procurement at Buy Social Canada to build community capital through our own procurement practices.

## Policy Purpose

This Policy confirms Buy Social Canada's commitment to building community capital through our procurement of goods and services.

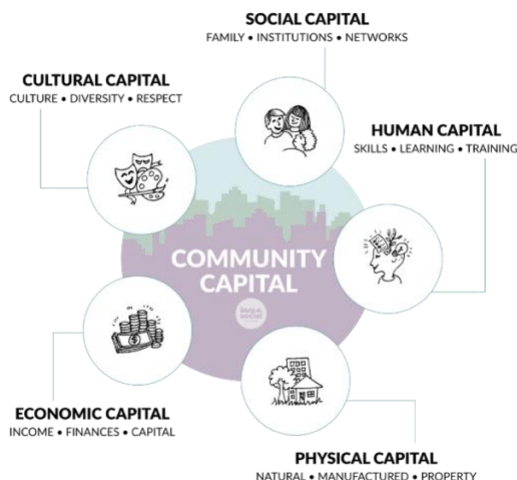


Figure 1. Buy Social Canada Community Capital Diagram



## Policy Scope

This policy applies to the procurement of goods and services by all members of the Buy Social Canada team and any organization's Buy Social Canada contracts to purchase on our behalf.

## Policy Application

At Buy Social Canada we implement social procurement through purchasing our goods and services whenever possible from social enterprises. When a social enterprise is not available to provide the good or service, we will use a concentric circle approach to look at the social, cultural, and environmental value of other available organizations, such as social co-operatives, local independent businesses, Indigenous businesses, and diverse-owned businesses. This includes looking at the organization's employment practices and their own supply chains.

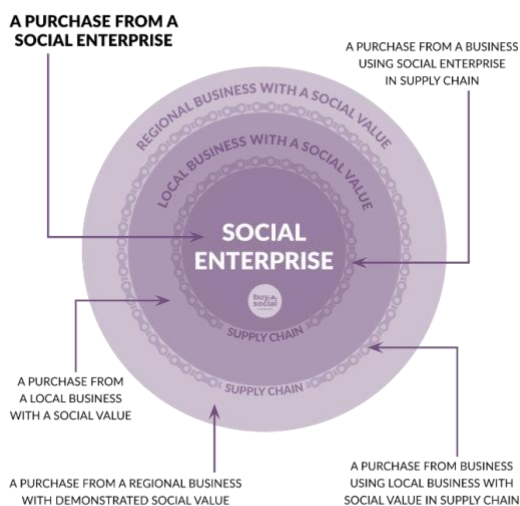


Figure 2. Buy Social Canada Concentric Circle Diagram

We commit to publicly reporting on our addressable spend with social enterprises and other social value suppliers annually.

Social value suppliers include diverse-owned businesses such as Black-owned, Indigenous-owned and women-owned businesses, social purpose businesses, and co-operatives.



## Examples of previous social procurement activities

**Office space:** We rent our office space from Realize Strategies Co-op (<https://realizestrategies.ca/>), a social enterprise and certified B Corp consulting firm that supports purpose-driven organizations with organizational design and business management.

**Event space:** We look for social value spaces to host events across Canada. For example, hosting events in Vancouver at 312 Main (<https://312main.ca/>), or in Calgary at Platform Calgary (<https://www.platformcalgary.com/>), both non-profit social enterprises creating space for community building and innovation.

**Office Supplies:** Our shared office supplies are sourced through Mills Office Productivity (<http://mills.ca>), a socially-conscious and locally-based supplier who is actively engaged within the community, particularly through social hiring, social procurement, and social finance.

**Catering:** Whenever possible, our events are catered by local social enterprises. In Vancouver, we frequently work with Potluck Café Society (<https://www.potluckcatering.org>) and HAVE Culinary Training Society (<http://www.have-cafe.ca>). Both caterers are committed to workforce development and low barrier employment for residents of Vancouver's inner city. In Calgary, we've purchased catering from EthniCity Catering and Café (<https://www.centrefornewcomers.ca/ethnicity>), a social enterprise creating skills training and job opportunities for immigrants and newcomers.

**Health benefits:** We purchase our team's health benefits coverage from Green Shield Canada (<https://www.greenshield.ca/en-ca>), a certified social enterprise and national non-profit health benefits provider dedicated to creating better health for all.

**Artwork and gifts:** We buy gifts from social enterprises and diverse-owned businesses across Canada. Enterprises include Skwachàys Lodge (<http://skwachays.com>), Enterprising Women Making Art (<http://www.atira.bc.ca/enterprisingwomen-making-art>), the Scented L'air (<https://www.scentedlair.com/>), and Smashing Good Piñatas (<https://smashinggood.ca/>).