



Walking the Talk on Social Procurement

Title: Buy Social Canada's Social Procurement Policy

Policy Statement

Every purchase has an economic, 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.

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 from social enterprises. Where a social enterprise is not available to provide the good or service we will look at the social value of other available organizations. This includes looking at the organization's employment practices and their own supply chains.



Examples of previous social procurement activities

Office space: We rent our office space from Community Impact Real Estate Society, a social enterprise that leases BC Housing's commercial spaces to maximize the social benefits to the community of these commercial space in Vancouver's inner city by balancing the mix of market and social enterprise tenants in its portfolio.

Furniture We hired the local Woodshop Worker's Co-Operative (<https://www.woodshop.coop>) to build some of the office furniture for our new office space including tables, cabinets, and a gate

Office Supplies All our 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 All our events are catered by one of two local catering social enterprises, 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.

Cleaning Our office is cleaned by The Cleaning Solution (<https://www.cleaningsolution.ca>), a contract cleaning social enterprise with a mandate to help individuals living with mental illness transition back into the workplace and grow their careers in the cleaning industry.

Coffee and snacks We source our coffee (and the occasional Friday afternoon goodie) from East Van Roasters (<http://eastvanroasters.com>), a local social enterprise run by PHS Community Services Society, which provides employment opportunities, mentorship-based programming, and on-the-job training for at-risk women re-entering the workforce.

Artwork and gifts We have a relationship with Skwachàys Lodge (<http://skwachays.com>), an aboriginal social enterprise hotel and art gallery, to display art available for purchase in our office and meeting room. Skwachàys is owned and operated by Vancouver Native Housing Society (VNHS), provides 24 shelter rate apartments for Indigenous people at risk of homelessness, and showcases Indigenous artistic and cultural work. We also purchase directly from social enterprises such as Hives for Humanity (<http://hivesforhumanity.com>) and Enterprising Women Making Art (<http://www.atira.bc.ca/enterprisingwomen-making-art>), for token gifts and thank-you cards.