

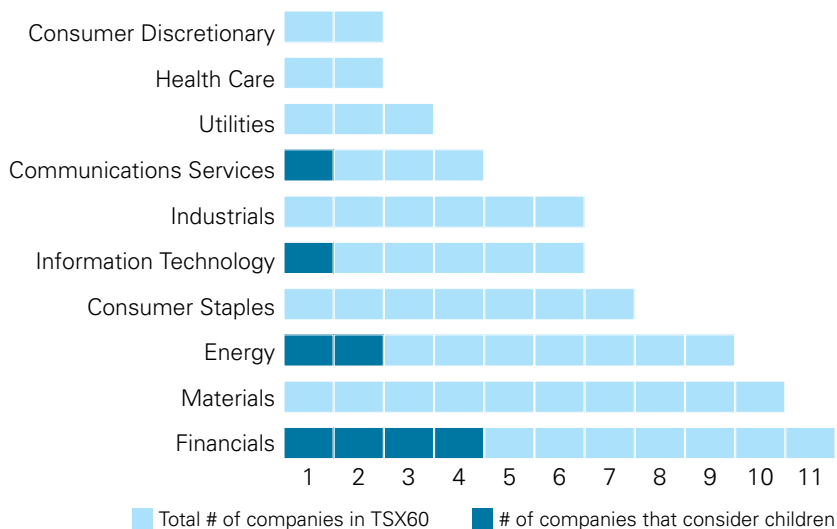


Principle 4: Ensure the Protection and Safety of Children

Every year UNICEF estimates that 1 billion children around the world experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence.

The Canadian Index for Child and Youth Wellbeing estimates that although only 11.3 per cent of 15-17 year olds in Canada have been victims of violent crime, the rate of child homicide (0.7 per 100,000 among 0-19 years old) is one of the highest among high-income countries. Business facilities or resources can be used to facilitate the abuse and exploitation of children in any number of ways, usually without the company's knowledge and contrary to its values, its corporate image and often its own stated internal regulations. Employees can use company property, such as computers or phones, to download sexual abuse images, or they might use company funds during business travel to engage in sexual exploitation. The conduct of employees on company business and on company premises or in company supported housing poses additional risks. Remote worksites that rely on a large, transient workforce often entail increased risks of child abuse, through, for instance, sexual exploitation or involvement in other illegal activities. Businesses should therefore screen employees during recruitment and implement child safeguarding policies and practices.

TSX60 Companies that Consider Children in Relation to Protection and Safety



Good Practice Examples

Canadian banks have been working on several initiatives to address human trafficking and sexual exploitation, including Scotiabank and BMO. The [Government of Ontario's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy](#) estimates that approximately two-thirds of police-reported human trafficking cases in Canada occur in Ontario, where the average age of recruitment into sex trafficking is 13 years old, and over 70 per cent of victims identified by police are under the age of 25.

- To help ease survivors' re-entry into society, [Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking](#) (FAST) assembled a coalition of six survivor organizations and twelve global banks, and tasked them to independently develop the Survivor Inclusion Initiative, a framework to provide access to basic financial services, including financial literacy. This project was successfully piloted by Scotiabank in 2019.
- Another initiative is [Project Protect](#), where Canada's major banks joined forces to develop a comprehensive list of indicators to assist financial institutions with reporting requirements to the Government of Canada's financial intelligence unit. This identifies financial transactions and patterns of activities related to human trafficking in the sex trade that may give rise to suspicions of money laundering.

Relevant Frameworks



Global Compact
Network Canada

- Principle 4:** Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; and
- Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour.



- 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls including sexual and other types of exploitation
- 8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking



The Canadian Index of
Child and Youth Well-being

- Feeling safe in my neighbourhood
- Violent crime
- Homicide
- Discrimination