



Press Release – Ottawa, May 8, 2014

Canada Registers Drop in Bertelsmann Foundation Rankings of Sustainable Governance Performance

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards today released the [2014 Canada Report](#) prepared as part of the Germany-based Bertelsmann Foundation's third edition of its [Sustainable Governance Indicators \(SGI\)](#) project. SGI 2014 is a cross-national survey of 41 OECD and EU countries that analyzes each country's future viability based on 140 quantitative and qualitative indicators. It ranks countries in terms of policy performance, quality of democracy, and governance.

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards is the Canadian partner for the project and produced both the scores for Canada and the detailed assessment of policies found in the Canada report.

Canada's performance in the 2014 rankings was middling, and showed deterioration since the last rankings were released in 2011.

Key findings for Canada from the third edition of the SGI are highlighted below.

- Of the 41 countries included in the rankings in 2014, Canada ranked 20th in terms of policy performance, 17th in terms of the quality of democracy, and 10th in terms of governance (Table 1).
- Canada's policy performance was well above average in the areas of economic policies (7th) and social policies (7th), but very poor for environmental policies (38th). Indeed, only 3 out of 41 countries did worse than Canada on this indicator.
- In the quality of democracy area Canada ranked poorly in terms of access to information.
- A comparison of the 2014 SGI rankings with those of 2011 requires that the 10 countries that were added to the study in 2014 be dropped (Table 1). These comparable rankings show that Canada suffered a fall in all three areas; Canada fell from 13th out of 31 countries in 2011 to 18th in 2014 in policy performance, from 10th to 13th in quality of democracy, and from 9th to 10th in governance.

Table 1: Canada's Sustainable Governance Indicator Performance Rankings

Indicator	Published Ranking	Comparable Rankings		
	2014 (out of 41)	2011 (out of 31)	2014 (out of 31)	Change
<i>Policy Performance</i>	20	13	18	5
<i>Economic Policies</i>	7	6	7	1
<i>Social Policies</i>	7	6	7	1
<i>Environmental Policies</i>	38	29	28	-1
<i>Quality of Democracy</i>	17	10	13	3
<i>Electoral Processes</i>	9	2	7	5
<i>Access to Information</i>	26	16	20	4
<i>Civil Rights</i>	13	6	12	6
<i>Rule of Law</i>	18	10	16	6
<i>Governance</i>	10	9	10	1
<i>Executive Capacity</i>	6	7	6	-1
<i>Executive Accountability</i>	17	18	17	-1

The 2014 Canada report is one of 41 country reports that shed light on each country's strengths and weaknesses. It provides a detailed assessment of how Canada has done in terms of policy performance, democracy and governance from May 2011 to May 2013.

The 2014 SGI rankings for Canada are posted at <http://www.sgi-network.org/2014/>. The 2014 Canada report is posted at http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2014/country/SGI2014_Canada.pdf.

For further information, please contact:

Andrew Sharpe
 Executive Director
 Centre for the Study of Living Standards
 710-151 Slater Street
 Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3
 613-233-8891
andrew.sharpe@csls.ca

The Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS) is a national, independent, Ottawa-based not-for-profit research organization. Its primary objective is to contribute to a better understanding of trends and determinants of productivity, living standards and economic wellbeing in Canada through research.