

2024 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

Sobey School of Business, Saint
Mary's University

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About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Letter of Commitment

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University demonstrates its commitment to PRME's Principles through the following letter from senior leadership.



**Sobey School
of Business**
Saint Mary's University

August 2024

It is my pleasure to write this letter of commitment to the PRME community so early in my tenure as Dean of the Sobey School of Business. I am committed to advancing the PRME principles and have been oriented to these principles by the faculty, students, alumni and staff of the School. The dynamism of the Sobey community with respect to the values and principles of social responsibility and sustainability has profoundly influenced the School's strategy and our mission.

Our faculty are invigorated by integrating high-impact research that is inter-disciplinary and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their teaching. We are also building capacity in the pedagogical techniques that support the development of the high-priority mindsets that will best develop students' potential, guide their personal and professional lives and prepare them to become authentic and conscientious leaders.

We are extremely proud of our new groundbreaking Bachelor of Commerce curriculum in sustainable business education which is enriched with courses on sustainability, ethics and innovative business practices. It is enhancing the academic experience of our students and better-preparing them to address pressing global challenges.

We have benefitted immensely from the PRME Champions program since 2020 and are proud of the contributions we have made to that community and the PRME North America Chapter. The Sobey School is dedicated to those engagement opportunities and will continue to participate as fully as possible.

We are pleased to demonstrate our commitment to collaboration and innovation and share our pioneering initiatives and lessons with our colleagues across the globe by contributing to the PRME Commons Platform. I sincerely hope that as your review our progress that you sense the passion that our community has to advancing responsible management education at the Sobey School of Business and globally. I look forward to engaging with the PRME Community as Dean of the Sobey School of Business.

Best regards,

Michel Delorme, Dean

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World without limits.



**Sobey School
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Saint Mary's University

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World without limits.

Institutional Mission, Vision, and Strategy

The following outlines Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University's institutional mission, vision, and strategic approach to responsible management education.

Mission Statement - Sobey School of Business

the Mission statement has guided the Sobey School of Business since 2013 and continues to motivate the School and guide our strategy.

Relevant Stakeholders

Faculty, students, staff, alumni and the business and civil community

Purpose

The Sobey School of Business, through active learning and the creation and mobilization of scholarship, prepares citizens of the world to lead sustainable, entrepreneurial businesses and communities.

[Supporting Links](#)



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

RME Leadership Accountability

At Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University, accountability for responsible management education is structured as follows:

Yes, but the role is formalized elsewhere within the PRME signatory's organization (e.g., center/institute leader, faculty/staff member), but not in senior leadership team

Organizational Structure for RME

The following organizational entities at Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University are responsible for RME:

- ❖ The Sobey School's PRME engagement is coordinated through the Dean's Office and it is the Dean and the PRME Committee that is accountable and responsible for RME at the School. That said, the Signatory is involved in all of research, teaching and engaging communities and business. We will look for opportunities throughout this report to demonstrate the extent of this involvement.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.

RME Elements in Degree Programs

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University integrates responsible management education into its degree programs through 4 different approaches:

Guest Speakers and Showcase Events

Instituting an annual Responsible Leadership Day

The School established an annual Responsible Leadership Day in 2019 to bring together academics and practitioners around a theme related to responsible management.

In 2019, the School's PRME Steering Committee designed a Responsible Leadership Day. The two main objectives of the event:

- Host a dialogue between faculty, students and practitioners that is of mutual concern and benefit
- Develop a theme that is topical and builds on either a) the strengths or b) the development needs or priorities of the faculty

Each Responsible Leadership Day has featured a keynote speaker, a professional-moderated panel of practitioners and a research showcase. Two of the events included a student activation in the form of a case competition and two of the events included a faculty and staff professional development workshop.

In 2019, to address the concerns about the lack of integration in the finance courses, program and curriculum, the theme was responsible investing. In 2020, to leverage the strengths of the David Sobey Centre for Retailing and Services Innovation, the theme was on responsible retailing and in 2021, to participate in the global conversation around COP 26 and the World Forum the theme was the Circular Economy. In 2022, the theme of Digital Citizenship was established in order to a) engage the regional practice community and b) inspire faculty developing curriculum for the School's new Masters in Business Analytics program launching in September of 2022. In 2023 the theme was sustainability reporting and in 2024 the theme focusses on the implication of AI on human resource management.

In all instances we had good participation from faculty, students and related practice communities. Further to participation, the School's PRME Committee reports and links the following outcomes to the School's Responsible Leadership Day.

- Improved awareness of our PRME commitment influenced the renewal of the Bachelor of Commerce program specifically

- The finance department committed to a renewal of the two core undergraduate course in finance to better align with the program-level learning goals that emphasize sustainability and professional responsibility
- A new, core course in sustainability will be offered in Sept 2023
- A new, core course in entrepreneurship will emphasize sustainability and social entrepreneurship and be offered starting in Sept 2024
- The David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services has published a White Paper on Sustainability and participated in the Retail Council of Canada's *Retail's Road to Net Zero Emissions* programming
- The School has engaged with the Greener Growth Partnership as a mechanism for mobilizing research and participating in a national conversation
- The 2021 and subsequent events will be funded by a major philanthropic gift in recognition of the potential for these events to raise awareness of the School's efforts to advance the SDGs

Course-Level RME Learning Goals

SDG Curriculum Mapping Project

The Sobey School has mapped its Bachelor of Commerce program curriculum to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The overall objective of the curriculum mapping project was to identify curricular elements that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to highlight gaps that may exist. The methodology builds upon the work of Brugman, Cote, Postma, Shaw, Pal & Robinson at the University of Toronto who cite an SDG inventory as key to their efforts to transform curriculum.

Program-Level RME Integration

RME is in the signatory's educational vision, so that it drives the signatory's business model and all educational efforts, courses, programs, degrees, and non-degrees

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Purpose

The Sobey School of Business, through active learning and the creation and mobilization of scholarship, prepares citizens of the world to lead sustainable, entrepreneurial businesses and communities.

[Supporting Links](#)



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

RME Elements in Research

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University incorporates responsible management education into its research endeavors through 4 different methods:

Regular Research Seminars

Research Conferences

Examples of responsibility-related regular research seminars

Responsible Leadership Day 2023

Date

November, 2023 - November, 2023

Location

Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Speakers

Diana Fox Carney

The forthcoming adoption of the International Sustainability Reporting Standards is critical to achieving more transparency and consistency in sustainability disclosures. Climate change in the Atlantic region, across Canada, and around the world is already having an impact on businesses and industries – particularly the agricultural sector. How will these new international sustainability reporting standards support and accelerate climate action?

RDL_23-02

[View document](#)  [Download document](#) 

Required Research Reporting

SDG in Research

Our faculty are doing research on a variety of important issues that tie into many of the SDGs, including the poverty-climate change nexus, social entrepreneurship, the role of gender in venture capital funding and much more.

Relevant Stakeholders

faculty, students, the business community

Purpose

To report on the alignment of SSB faculty with the SDGs

SDG Research alignment

View document  Download document 

Research reporting and the SDGs

Faculty do report on their research activity annually. Because the SDGs and Responsible Management are a transversal theme within the Sobey School of Business and Climate Change is a Strategic Research theme at Saint Mary's University, the School tracks and reports on this research annually in a Research Bulletin.

See attached.

Dedicated Research Funding



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Partnership Approaches for RME

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University partners with external stakeholders to advance responsible management education through 3 different approaches:

Knowledge Translation and Dissemination

External Community Dialogue

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Collaborative Problem Solving

Description of partnering activities that involve problem-solving

A description of a partnering activity that aims to remove barriers to homeownership through financial literacy education, resources, and tailored support programs.

Please see attached object.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

RME Policy Implementation

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University has implemented 1 policy to support its commitment to responsible management education:

No, but RME is stimulated organically rather than through policies (a narrative explaining why will be prompted with this option)

Institutional Aspiration Targets

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University has set aspiration targets in 5 different areas:

- ❖ GHG Emission Targets
- ❖ Water Conservation Targets
- ❖ Building and Real Estate Targets
- ❖ Travel Reduction Targets
- ❖ Employee EDI Targets



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



Performance Disclosure and Transparency

Regarding transparency in RME performance disclosure, Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University operates with the following approach:

Limited Transparency Disclosure

SIGNATORY

Sobey School of Business, Saint Mary's University



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Website

<http://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey-school-of-business.html>