



# Canadian Modern Slavery Report

For the period April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024

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## Athabasca University: A Context

From our home campus in Athabasca, Alberta, AU transforms the lives of learners and their communities, one person at a time through teaching, research, and impact—in ways no other Canadian university does or can. Grounded in rural northern Alberta yet reaching learners around the world virtually, AU makes a transformative university education possible for anyone, anywhere.

Responding always to the changing needs of our learners, our workforce and our communities, AU seeks to continually expand and improve the educational experience to include hybrid learning and workspaces, work-integrated learning, research initiatives, and other community-based experiential learning opportunities. Within the context of this report, AU's unique role and approach holds important considerations:

**Students:** AU provides textbooks and other course materials purchased from suppliers both within and outside of Canada. All AU course materials are supplied to students as a course package; the university does not sell individual items to students.

**Employees:** While AU provides a range of place-based, online, and hybrid working options for team members, the university's employees reside in Canada.

The university also engages various specialists on a contract-for-service basis to assist with various functions including course-development, instructional services, specialized information technology services, and other administrative duties. As part of its marketing and promotional efforts, the university purchases some branded material such as sweaters, hats, and other items.

Finally, AU is one of four comprehensive academic and research universities (CARUs) in Alberta—and the only one based in the rural North. AU is committed to academic freedom and fostering research opportunities and collaborations, as well as growing our research excellence and relevance to make the world better and more equal. Research activities at AU can require specialized equipment that may be sourced from Canadian or international suppliers.

## Fighting against Forced Labour and Child Labour Statement

Canada's [Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act](#) (the Act) requires certain entities to submit a report to the Minister of Public Safety. As AU is located in Alberta and has more than \$20 million in assets, \$40 million in revenue, and averages more than 250 employees, it has prepared this report to fulfill its obligations under the Act.

## Risk Management in our Supply Chains

This report covers the period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. The university is committed to applying fair business practices to ensure the fair treatment of all of its vendors. When selecting its suppliers, the university considers the vendor's reputation, stability, reliability, quality of products and services, and competitive pricing. All procurements for the university are conducted in accordance with the [Supply Chain Canada Code of Ethics for Professionals in the field of Supply](#)

[Chain Management](#), which includes a requirement that the university be cognizant of the social rights extended to all people, including the conventions of the International Labour Organization with respect to labour standards.

## Our Policies and Due Diligence Regarding Forced and Child Labour

The university's Code of Conduct for Members of the University Community, along with its values, align well with the Act. As the vast majority of the university's business is conducted in Canada (over 87% in fiscal year 2023-2024), the university assesses the risk of forced labour and child labour in its supply chains to be low.

Athabasca University is not aware of any instances of forced or child labour in our supply chain, and therefore, no remedial measures were required to be taken.

## Key Performance Indicators

The university has developed reports supporting Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to forced and child labour.

## Action Plan and Progress

AU is grounded in the values of growth, authentic respect, trust, teamwork, quality, and innovation—and these values underpin its commitment to fighting forced and child labour. Several action items were identified in the previous report. The list below includes progress on previous items as well as new items for the upcoming year.

- Identify all suppliers located outside of Canada
  - The university developed internal reports to list all suppliers located outside of Canada. Going forward, these reports will be regularly monitored and used in future reports.
- Perform a risk assessment of all such suppliers to determine the level of risk related to forced and child labour
  - A risk assessment was conducted on the top 10 international suppliers, all of which were determined to be low risk. When determining risk, the university examined the supplier's location, product category, and existing policies regarding forced and child labour. In the year ahead, the university plans to continue to assess the risks related to international suppliers and perform more risk assessments.
- Developing an action plan for addressing any risks identified
  - No risks were identified in the reporting period.
- Increasing awareness of the risks of forced and child labour for decision-makers who influence supplier selection

## Approval and Attestation

In accordance with the requirements of the Act, and in particular section 11 thereof, I attest that I have reviewed the information contained in the report for Athabasca University. Based on my knowledge, and having exercised reasonable diligence, I attest that the information in the report is true, accurate, and complete in all material respects for the purpose of the Act, for the reporting year beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024.

Signed:

***Original Signed by Byron Nelson, Chair,  
Board of Governors***

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Byron Nelson  
Chair, the Governors of Athabasca University  
I have the authority to bind the corporation.

May 30, 2025

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Date