May 12, 2026
SDO-BDD@ec.gc.ca

To Whom it May concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the draft Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.

We fully support the feedback provided by the Wellbeing Economies Alliance with regards to the broader social and environmental aspects. As a non-profit society focused on advancing Zero Waste, we also wish to add additional comments specific to *Goal 3.5 Reduce and Manage Waste.*

We appreciate the fact that the circular economy is highlighted with reuse, repair, remanufacturing, refurbishment, and recycling but redesign/rethink, which is the first and crucial level of the zero waste hierarchy and a key part of circular economy strategies, is missing.

Similarly, while open burning represents a risk to northern and remote communities, waste incineration (and to a lesser degree landfills) also disproportionately impact vulnerable communities (the most recent example is Emerald Incinerator expansion in Brampton).

The Government of Canada efforts are sound but should be expanded to include the actions called for in our sign on statement (attached) which was supported by almost 50 organizations as well as numerous individuals.

The initial target is adequate but there should be a more ambitious long term goal (such as 90% reduction by 2040) with additional interim targets for subsequent years (60% less by 2035) to foster clear and ambitious plans and actions. The Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature should lead it but other ministries should be involved as well as this should require substantial changes in how things are done across business, industry and society. To actually achieve these targets, the suggestions from our Sign On Statement will be needed.

We would be happy to discuss any of these suggestions further if this would be helpful.

Sincerely,
Sue Maxwell
Chair,
Zero Waste BC
www.zerowastebc.ca