

## The Éditions Esse Sustainable Development Policy

### Preamble

Les éditions Esse (hereinafter Esse) is a publishing house whose main activity is publication of the magazine *Esse arts + opinions*, founded at UQAM in 1984, and of exclusive written content on the platform *esse.ca*. Initially a French-language magazine, *Esse arts + opinions* became bilingual in 2007.

In the magazine and in its online content, Esse focuses on the visual arts, multidisciplinary arts, and all forms of social interventions, in situ and performative, and privileges analyses that address art in relation with the context in which it is situated. Concerned with social issues, ethical reflections, and the resulting major changes that occur, it regularly reaffirms its mandate as an engaged publishing house open to texts that are activist, political, and polemical.

Occasionally, Esse publishes books on different issues in art. Since 2009, it presents the annual benefit auction *Vendu-Sold*, which connects art, collecting, and philanthropy.

Given the proliferation of crises that are casting a shadow on current and future generations and damaging the environment, the climate, culture, social solidarity, and the economy, Esse recognizes the necessity of making a common effort to encourage the principles of sustainable development in all spheres of activity.

### Definition

According to the definition adopted by the Assemblée nationale du Québec in the Sustainable Development Act, sustainable development is:

development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is based on a long-term approach which takes into account the inextricable nature of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development activities.<sup>1</sup>

In Esse's view, sustainable development must be integrated into all aspects of organizational social responsibility: ethics, governance, economy, environment, society, culture.

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<sup>1</sup> *Loi sur le développement durable. Une loi fondamentale pour le Québec*. Développement durable, Environnement et Lutte contre les changements climatiques. Gouvernement du Québec, 2014. (Translated by Esse.)



## Sustainable Development Policy

Esse's sustainable development policy rests on seven pillars:

- I. **UNIFIED ECOSYSTEMS.** Esse acknowledges that it is a member of the ecosystems of Québec cultural periodicals and Québec visual arts. It commits to act in concert with its peers and to support through its actions the distribution, influence, and perpetuation of critical thinking in culture and in society.
- II. **LOCAL ECONOMY.** Esse was born in Montréal and remains based there to this day. It strives to participate in the local and Québec economies by favouring suppliers based in the province.
- III. **QUÉBEC SPECIFICITY.** Esse affirms its francophone and Québec origins and pays particular attention to the protection, development, and promotion of the specificity of Québec culture.
- IV. **DIVERSITY OF VOICES.** More generally, Esse intends to be open to voices from minority communities. It is important for Esse to provide ample room for these voices in the cultural sphere, in Québec and elsewhere, and to amplify their influence.
- V. **INCLUSIVITY AND WELLBEING.** Esse wishes to offer an open and inclusive working environment free of all harassment, violence, and discrimination. It commits to considering its employees' health, safety, and wellbeing in all of its decisions and policies.
- VI. **RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION.** Esse recognizes the importance of responsible consumption and commits to ongoing reflection on the ecological effects of its activities: digital technologies, production and printing, promotion and distribution, event logistics.
- VII. **REPRESENTATIVENESS AND DIALOGUE.** Finally, Esse believes that healthy governance is essential to the accomplishment of its goals. Through its board of directors, Esse aspires to reflect the diversity of its community and enter into dialogue with its environment for greater social solidarity.

On the basis of these seven pillars, Esse intends to be a positive force in the development of a strong and unified Québec cultural community, responsible for its actions and aware of its human, social, and environmental impacts.

All of its policies and action plans must comply with the spirit of the present policy.

Adopted by the board of directors on February 18, 2025.