



**“Proxy voting”** Most listed equities have voting rights attached to them. Proxy voting is the process of casting ballots as a shareholder of a public company. Shareholders receive a proxy ballot along with an information booklet called a proxy statement describing the issues to be voted on, such as electing directors to the board, ESG factors, and approving a stock compensation plan.

**“Responsible investment”** is an approach that aims to incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into investment decisions in order to better manage risk and generate sustainable long-term returns.

- (a) **Environmental:** Factors relating to a company’s interactions with the physical environment. These include (but are not limited to) climate change; greenhouse gas emissions; biodiversity loss; deforestation; air, water or resource depletion or pollution; waste management; change in land use; and ocean acidification.
- (b) **Social:** Factors relating to business practices that have an impact on the rights, well-being, and interests of people and communities. These include (but are not limited to) human rights; labour standards in the supply chain; child, slave and bond labour; workplace health and safety; freedom of association and freedom of expression; human capital management and employee relations; diversity; relations with local communities (including indigenous communities); activities in conflict zones; health and access to medicine; consumer protection; and controversial weapons.
- (c) **Governance:** Factors relating to the governance of a company. These include (but are not limited to) board structure, composition, size, diversity, skills, and independence; executive pay; shareholder rights; stakeholder interactions; transparency; business ethics; bribery and corruption; internal controls; and conflicts of interest.

**“Screening”** is the filtering process used to either identify certain investments to include or to find those that should be excluded/included from an investors’ portfolio based on given criteria.

**“Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures” (TCFD)** is an international consortium that develops voluntary and consistent climate-related financial risk disclosures for companies by considering physical, liability, and transition risks associated with climate change.

**“Thematic Impact investments”** are made by investing in assets that stand to benefit from macro-level trends with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. These investments can be public or private investments and target a range of returns.

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partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests

### **Jurisdiction / Scope**

- 3.00 The funds are to be invested in accordance with Section 57 of the University Act, which states that "subject to a contrary intent expressed in a gift, devise bequest or trust, Section 15 of the Trustee Act does not apply to investments made by a board of a university and each board (a) may invest money belonging to the university and available for investment, and (b) must, when investing under paragraph (a), make investments that a prudent person would make."
- 4.00 This policy applies to all working capital investments managed by policy FM5200.

### **Policy**

- 5.00 The University of Victoria is deeply committed to sustainability, and the critical need to address climate change across society and in every university domain (research, education, community engagement, and campus operations). Our goal is to be a global leader in environmental and societal sustainability including responding to the critical global issue of climate change.
- 6.00 The university believes responsible investing, taking environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into consideration, will reduce long-term risk and enhance returns.

**Principle 1:**

We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.

**Principle 2:**

We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.

**Principle 3:**

We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.

**Principle 4:**

We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.

**Principle 5:**

We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.

**Principle 6:**

We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

8.02

TCFD

Aligning the disclosure practices of our investments managers with the TCFD recommendations.

The university will undertake thematic impact investments that align with its investment objectives in section 1.00 and responsible investment goals as outlined in section 7.00 and invest in opportunities that work toward addressing societal challenges that further the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Reporting**

9.00 A report on responsible investment activities and their related goals will be submitted at least annually to the Board of Governors and the university community.

### **Authorities and Officers**

The authorities and officers for this policy are set out in the following table: