



Ballad Group

Disclosure Report
Date Submitted: March 20th, 2024



Disclosure Materials

Certified B Corporations must complete a Disclosure Questionnaire to identify potentially sensitive issues related to the company (e.g. historical fines, sanctions, material litigation, or sensitive industry practices).

This component does not affect the company's score on the B Impact Assessment. If the company answers affirmatively to any items in the Disclosure Questionnaire that B Lab deems relevant for public stakeholders, then, as a condition of their certification, the company must:

- 1) Be transparent about details of the disclosure issues identified on the company's public B Impact Report
- 2) Describe how the company has addressed this issue
- 3) Demonstrate that management practices are in place to avoid similar issues from arising in the future, when necessary.

In all cases, the Standards Advisory council reserves the right to refuse certification if the company is ultimately deemed not to uphold the spirit and integrity of the community.

In addition to the voluntary indication of sensitive issues in the Disclosure Questionnaire, companies pursuing Certification also are subject to a background check by B Lab staff. Background checks include a review of public records, news sources, and search engines for company names, brands, executives/founders, and other relevant topics.

Sensitive issues identified through background checks may or may not be within the scope of questions in the Disclosure Questionnaire, but undergo the same review process and are subject to the same possible review by the Standards Advisory Council, including ineligibility for B Corp Certification, required remediation, or disclosure.

This document contains a copy of the company's completed Disclosure Questionnaire and related disclosure documentation provided by the company



Disclosure Questionnaire

Industries and Products

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company is involved in production or trade in any of the following. Select Yes for all options that apply.		
Animal Products or Services	☐	☒
Biodiversity Impacts	☐	☒
Chemicals	☐	☒
Disclosure Alcohol	☐	☒
Disclosure Firearms Weapons	☐	☒
Disclosure Mining	☐	☒
Disclosure Pornography	☐	☒
Disclosure Tobacco	☐	☒
Energy and Emissions Intensive Industries	☐	☒
Fossil fuels Gambling	☐	☒
Genetically Modified Organisms	☐	☒
Illegal Products or Subject to Phase Out	☐	☒
Industries at Risk of Human Rights Violations	☐	☒
Monoculture Agriculture	☐	☒
Nuclear Power or Hazardous Materials	☐	☒
Payday, Short Term, or High Interest Lending	☐	☒
Water Intensive Industries	☐	☒
Tax Advisory Services	☐	☒

Outcomes & Penalties

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the company has had any formal complaint to a regulatory agency or been assessed any fine or sanction in the past five years for any of the following practices or policies. Check all that apply.		
Anti-Competitive Behavior	☐	☒
Breaches of Confidential Information	☐	☒
Bribery, Fraud, or Corruption	☐	☒
Company has filed for bankruptcy	☐	☒
Consumer Protection	☐	☒
Financial Reporting, Taxes, Investments, or Loans	☐	☒
Hazardous Discharges Into Air/Land/Water (Past 5 Yrs)	☐	☒
Labor Issues	☐	☒
Large Scale Land Conversion, Acquisition, or Relocation	☐	☒
Litigation or Arbitration	☐	☒
On-Site Fatality	☐	☒
Penalties Assessed For Environmental Issues	☐	☒
Political Contributions or International Affairs	☐	☒
Recalls	☐	☒
Significant Layoffs	☐	☒
Violation of Indigenous Peoples Rights	☐	☒
Other	☐	☒



Practices

	Yes	No
Please indicate if the following statements are true regarding whether or not the company engages in the following practices. Check all that apply. If the statement is true, select "Yes." If false, select "No."		
Animal Testing	☐	☒
Company/Suppliers Employ Under Age 15 (Or Other ILO Minimum Age)	☐	☒
Company prohibits freedom of association/collective bargaining	☐	☒
Company workers are prisoners	☐	☒
Conduct Business in Conflict Zones	☐	☒
Confirmation of Right to Work	☐	☒
Does not transparently report corporate financials to government	☐	☒
Employs Individuals on Zero-Hour Contracts	☐	☒
Facilities located in sensitive ecosystems	☐	☒
ID Cards Withheld or Penalties for Resignation	☐	☒
No formal Registration Under Domestic Regulations	☐	☒
No signed employment contracts for all workers	☐	☒
Overtime For Hourly Workers Is Compulsory	☐	☒
Payslips not provided to show wage calculation and deductions	☐	☒

	Yes	No
Sale of Data	☐	☒
Tax Reduction Through Corporate Shells	☐	☒
Workers cannot leave site during non-working hours	☐	☒
Workers not Provided Clean Drinking Water or Toilets	☐	☒
Workers paid below minimum wage	☐	☒
Workers Under Bond	☐	☒
Other	☒	☐

Supply Chain Disclosures

	Yes	No
Please indicate if any of the following statements are true regarding your company's significant suppliers.		
Business in Conflict Zones	☐	☒
Child or Forced Labor	☐	☒
Negative Environmental Impact	☐	☒
Negative Social Impact	☐	☒
Other	☐	☒



Disclosure Questionnaire Statement

Disclosure Questionnaire Category: Other - Clients in Controversial Industries

Topic	Company serves clients in Controversial Industries
Summary of Issue	Ballad Group is a workforce development company that provides employment training programs to unemployed and underemployed Canadians as well as economic development, research, engagement, and strategic planning to rural municipalities and Indigenous groups. The company has clients in controversial industries such as Tobacco, Whole Life Insurance Products and Fossil Fuels (others excluded coal and oil sand). Their services are also sold to non-controversial industries.
Size/Scope of Issue (e.g. \$ financial implication, # of individuals affected)	For the fiscal year 2023, the revenue generated from clients in the Whole life insurance products represented around 2%. The company did not work in 2023 with clients in the fossil fuel industry and tobacco industry.
Impact on Stakeholders	Companies that work with clients in controversial industries can indirectly increase the harmful impact to stakeholders by enabling business growth. Therefore, companies that work with clients in these industries should have practices in place to ensure that their impact is aimed at decreasing the negative impacts of the industry. B Lab has flagged the involvement of companies with clients in controversial industries as a material issue and new standards will be created to address possible risks related to this matter.
Implemented Management Practices	Around 17% of the company's revenue comes from Indigenous clients, for whom tobacco holds cultural significance within the First Nation community. They have only undertaken one project in 2022, representing less than 1% of their revenue. Ballad Group does not work with tobacco clients. Ballad Group collaborated with clients in the whole life insurance products industry, with a primary focus on providing an employment training program. This program was designed to offer training to individuals who are currently unemployed and seeking a career in insurance. The primary aim of this program was to assist these individuals in coming off income support and successfully reintegrating into the workforce.



Report	Annual impact report is uploaded here , with the next report in the summer 2024.
Management Comments	Ballad Groups is a purpose-driven workforce development organization that works in industries such as hospitality, construction, supply chain, and agriculture, including BCorps companies. The company's vision, mission, values, and impact strategy are aligned with supporting the best interests of its stakeholders. Ballad Group's goal is to support individuals, communities, and businesses in becoming economically resilient and empower them to reach their vision for the future.