



**CCGG**

Canadian Coalition  
for Good Governance

THE VOICE OF THE INVESTOR

# ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM - 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2022

3304-20 Queen St, Toronto, ON, M5H 3R3

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

CCGG's engagement program focusses on the board's role in overseeing material environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters on behalf of shareholders. We approach individual engagements from this perspective. By focusing on engaging with independent board members on ESG related topics we seek to communicate and amplify to directors the importance institutional investors place on the adoption of good governance practices as well as on disclosure that is clear and decision-useful.

Our engagement approach directly supports our Member organizations in the discharge of their stewardship responsibilities. In addition to collaboration with other institutional investors, good investor stewardship also requires engaging with companies at the appropriate level given the issue to be discussed. Board engagements are the appropriate forum to discuss a company's governance practices, including shareholder rights, board composition, executive compensation and board oversight of corporate strategy & material business risks, including material E&S risks.

Thank you for your interest in CCGG's engagement program.

Sincerely,

Catherine McCall  
Executive Director

## **REPORT INTRODUCTION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BOARD ENGAGEMENT**

Since 2009, CCGG has engaged directly with the boards of public companies in Canada on behalf of its institutional investor Members. Over the years, CCGG has established and maintained direct dialogue with the boards of the vast majority of companies included in the S&P/TSX Composite Index; emphasising the governance and disclosure expectations and priorities of investors.

It is my pleasure to present to you our second annual report on CCGG's board engagement program. This document is broken down into three sections that collectively address: (I) the objectives of our engagement program, (II) topics discussed and recommendations made during our recently concluded 2022 engagement season, and (III) our assessment of the ongoing impact of CCGG's engagement program.

### Focus of engagement dialogue

Fundamental governance considerations, such as board composition and succession, governance policy infrastructure, scope and substance of board risk and strategy oversight, and related disclosure have always been an important part of CCGG's engagement discussions. In 2022, we continued the focus on structural elements of executive compensation programs, including performance measures driving compensation outcomes. Executive share ownership and share ownership requirements were also an important focus.

Since issuing the E&S Guidebook in 2018, CCGG has continued to integrate and expand discussions on the material environmental and social risks facing companies and how the board is providing effective oversight in these areas. In 2022, climate-related transition risks were a focus area for us. We continue to encourage companies we meet with to provide investors sufficient disclosure to assess: (I) the company's exposure to climate-related transition risks, and (II) where relevant, a company's strategy to address transition risks. You can learn more about the range of topics discussed during our 2022 engagement season by reviewing pages 8 to 11 of this report.

### Impact

CCGG's engagement and ongoing dialogue with public boards includes recommendations for improvements in governance policy, practices and corporate disclosure. Beginning in 2018, CCGG established a process for assessing, on an annual basis, the extent to which boards have adopted the recommendations provided. The process involves reviewing the company's subsequent disclosures (primarily, the Management Information Circular) for any changes in the recommended areas. This review is done on a "lagged" basis (i.e. 18 to 24 months following the meeting), in order to allow boards time to consider and potentially implement changes. I am pleased to advise that our annual assessments have typically shown that 70% of the boards we engage with end up adopting at least one of CCGG's suggested changes to their governance policies, practices or disclosure within two years of meeting with CCGG.

CCGG's 2022 impact assessment indicated that approximately 90% of the boards with whom CCGG engaged in 2020 made at least one material positive change to their governance policies, practices or disclosure by 2022. We also observed significant improvements in company E&S disclosure, with over 90% of the companies engaged with on this issue in 2020 either: (I) issuing an inaugural sustainability report aligned with investor recommended reporting frameworks or standards (TCFD and/or SASB), or (II) significantly improving their disclosure to better align with one or more investor recommended reporting frameworks or standards by 2022. Please refer to page 14 for additional details on the historical impact of CCGG's engagement program.

Thank you for your interest in CCGG's engagement program. We invite any questions or feedback you may have on this report. You are welcome to contact any one of the members of our team.

Sincerely,

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## PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND PROCESS

CCGG's Members are Canadian institutional investors who collectively manage approximately \$6 trillion in assets on behalf of pension funds, mutual fund unit holders and other institutional and individual investors. A list of CCGG Member organizations is included in Appendix A.

Each year, CCGG meets with the boards of approximately 35 of Canada's leading public companies. The discussion is focused on governance matters that are of primary importance to investors. Our board engagement meetings provide a private forum for dialogue and exchange of views between independent directors and institutional investors. The meetings also provide an efficient means for boards to communicate with many of the company's largest shareholders. These meetings have proven to be mutually beneficial and provide corporate directors an opportunity to communicate their views on important governance matters to current and prospective investors.

CCGG considers various factors in identifying candidates for engagement, including:

- The company's prior meeting history with CCGG,
- CCGG Member common share ownership in the company,
- The company's market capitalization, and
- Input provided by the CCGG Board of Directors and Member organizations.

Prior to each engagement meeting, CCGG staff complete a comprehensive review of the engagement candidate's public filings, including the latest proxy circular and other relevant documents such as annual information forms and sustainability reports, and any other recent developments at the company. A briefing book is composed to outline key features of the company's ESG policies and practices, including their alignment with CCGG's public policies and position statements (available on our website: <https://cgg.ca/policies/>). The briefing book is reviewed with CCGG attendees in advance of each engagement meeting and a list of potential topics to raise with the company is subsequently prepared. Discussion topics are unique to each company's situation and usually serve one or more of the following objectives:

- Gather information and perspectives from board members which, in turn, provide CCGG Members with a better understanding of a company's governance practices and informs their voting or investment decisions;
- Encourage boards to alter their governance practices to better align with shareholder expectations; and/or
- Encourage boards to enhance disclosure in one or more key areas.

While topics are tailored to each company, the agenda of our meetings is limited to matters that are within a board's purview, such as:

- Board oversight of executive compensation,
- Board composition, skills, and succession planning,
- Board oversight of management composition and succession planning,
- Board oversight of material business risks – including material environmental and social risks,
- Board oversight of business strategy, and
- Director-shareholder engagement.

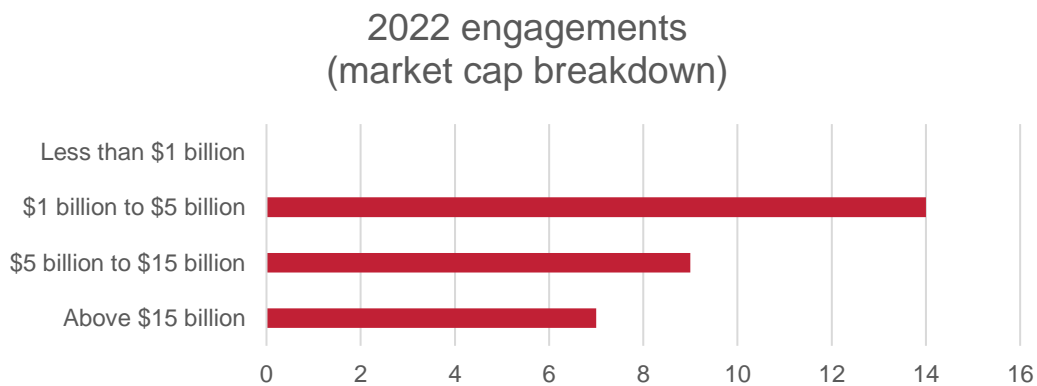
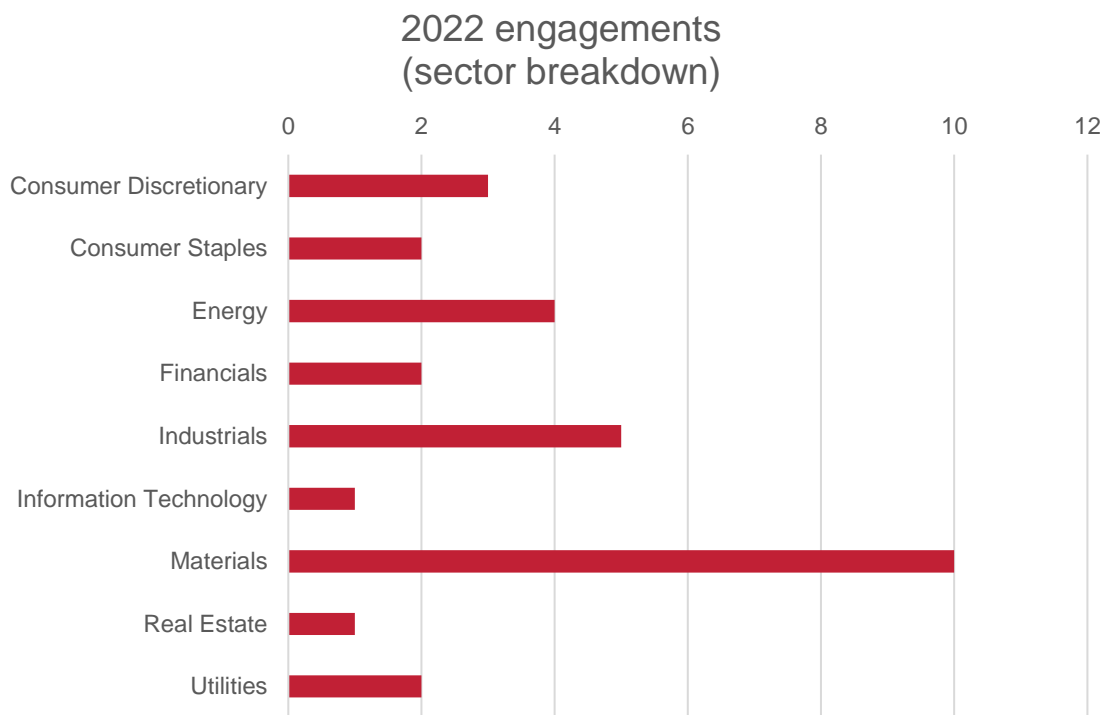
Following each engagement meeting, CCGG staff prepare a written summary of the meeting for our Members. Meeting summaries are not made public but are provided to the company's board for internal use. In all cases, the company's board has an opportunity to comment on a draft summary for accuracy before it is made available to CCGG Members.

## 2022 ENGAGEMENTS

In 2022, CCGG completed 30 meetings with the boards of 30 different TSX-listed issuers. Out of these 30 meetings, 4 represented CCGG’s first meeting with the company’s board.

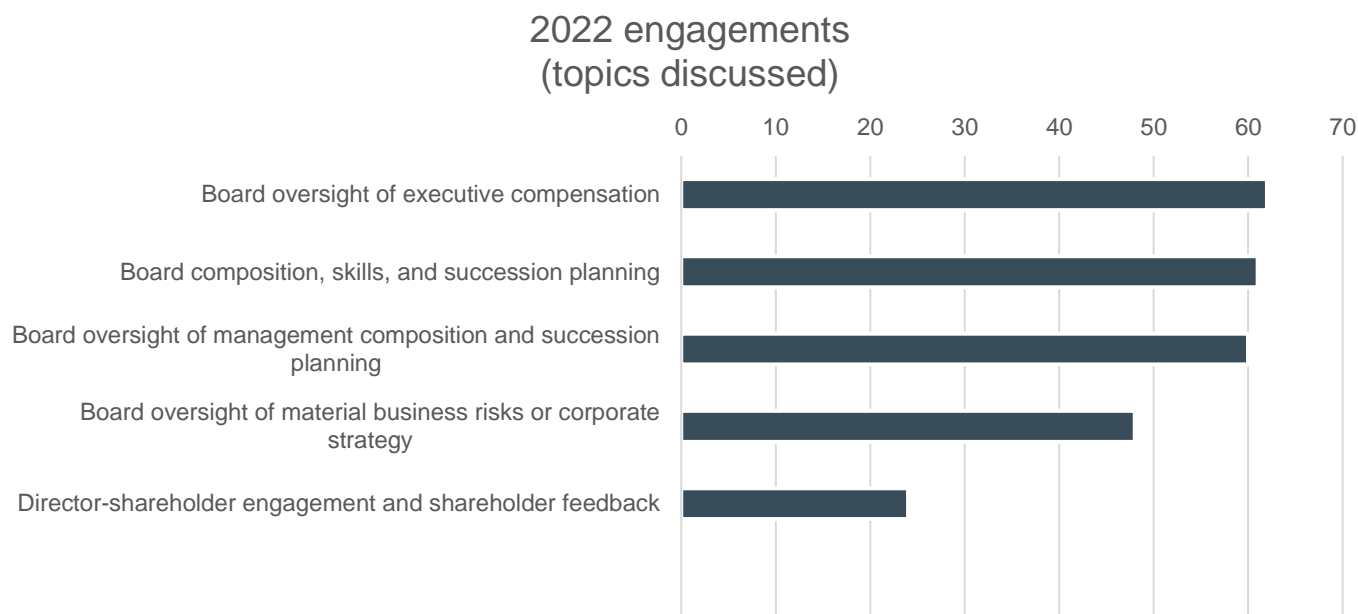
### Sector and market capitalization breakdown

The 30 TSX-listed issuers we engaged with in 2022 represented nine of the eleven sectors that make up the TSX Composite Index. The group of 30 had a median market capitalization equal to approximately \$5.5 billion.



## Topics discussed

In 2022, we engaged on 255 topics with the above 30 public companies. These 255 topics may be broadly classified under the following five themes:



## Board oversight of executive compensation

In 2022, discussions on executive compensation represented almost 25% of all topics covered at our meetings. The following four topics collectively made up almost 90% of all executive compensation and related topics we covered with the above 30 companies in 2022:

- Executive share ownership:** Executive officers, particularly the CEO and other members of the C-suite, should hold a meaningful common share interest in the companies they manage. In our view, one of the best ways to reduce (not eliminate) governance risk is by aligning the economic interest of managers running a business to that of shareholders. While investors may, at times, disagree on the best performance metrics to include in compensation schemes, the vast majority expect senior officers to build significant common share ownership during their tenure at the company. Where executive officer share ownership was low relative to an officer's total compensation and relative to an officer's tenure at the company, we asked boards to promote share ownership by either: (a) settling share-based awards in common shares as opposed to cash, or (b) modifying executive share ownership requirements to exclude credit for any unvested compensation awards (such as performance or restricted share units) that are being used to satisfy a company's share ownership requirements.
- Compensation structure:** Executive compensation is often, to a great extent, granted in the form of long-term, equity-linked or share-based instruments such as stock options, performance share units (PSUs) and restricted share units (RSUs). CCGG Members generally prefer the inclusion of full-value



awards such as RSUs and PSUs within compensation structures over stock options. In 2022, in cases where stock options were a major component of compensation and where the company operated in an industry in which share prices are frequently and significantly impacted by factors beyond management’s control (e.g. commodity prices), we asked boards to explain their rationale for emphasizing stock options within the compensation structure. We also inquired how boards limit stock option awards (particularly during depressions in commodity or business cycles) to manage shareholder dilution and avoid the risk of unduly-excessive compensation being awarded to management teams based on factors beyond their control. To the extent possible, compensation should be structured to reward management skill as opposed to luck.

- Performance measures used and target-setting: CCGG does not typically recommend specific performance metrics to be used within a company’s compensation structure. We do, however, encourage boards to link compensation outcomes to performance measures that are within management’s control or influence, and which incentivize long-term value creation. No compensation metric or measure is perfect; therefore, we expect boards to regularly review the most significant performance measures driving compensation outcomes and consider whether these measures are driving the right behaviours. Where relevant, in 2022, we also discussed with boards their target setting process for key performance metrics driving compensation outcomes.
- Non-GAAP performance measures: When non-GAAP financial measures drive a significant portion of incentive compensation and when financial measures used in the compensation scheme have been subject to extensive adjustment, it is important for boards to clearly articulate their rationale for approving all material adjustments that have been made to GAAP figures. Where disclosure was limited, we asked boards to elaborate on their process for scrutinizing adjustments that were made to measures used in the compensation scheme. Where warranted, we also asked boards to discuss their rationale for approving adjustments that were described as ‘non-recurring’, ‘one-time’, or ‘unrelated to operational activities’. This led to discussions on circumstances under which the board holds management accountable for non-recurring charges, such as asset write-downs or business impairments and restructurings.

### *Board composition, skills and succession planning*

In 2022, discussions on board composition, skills and succession planning also represented almost 25% of all topics covered at our meetings.

- Director skills & experiences: We asked questions on director skills and experiences when management information circulars provided insufficient disclosure on a board’s collective skillset or on the profile of individual directors. Where proxy circular disclosure was limited, we recommended that boards, in future, provide more fulsome disclosure on the board’s collective skillset or on individual director profiles.
- Board succession planning: Where we felt a board’s collective skillset did not match the needs of the business or where a board was not sufficiently diverse or adequately independent, we asked boards to discuss how they plan to address apparent gaps in the board’s composition through succession

planning and board renewal. Where relevant, we also invited comments on how boards are planning for succession within key board and committee leadership positions.

### *Board oversight of management composition and succession planning*

In 2022, approximately 25% of all topics covered during our engagements related to management composition (diversity), succession planning and employee retention.

- Management composition (diversity): Management diversity was a topic of conversation when we felt senior management teams were not sufficiently diverse and where proxy circulars provided limited information on the company's diversity objectives or the role and involvement of the board in monitoring and encouraging improvements in diversity. While gender diversity has been on our agenda for a while, in 2022 we put a spotlight on gender diversity within a company's pipeline for key roles, such as the company's talent pipeline for the CEO position or heads of key business divisions. While gender diversity within senior management overall continues to improve at most companies we engage with, we believe more work needs to be done in order to improve gender diversity within key operational roles.
- Management succession planning: When disclosure on the board's oversight of talent development or maintenance of succession plans for key positions within the company was limited, or when we felt a board had not appropriately managed executive succession in the past, we asked boards to discuss their involvement in developing or overseeing the development of succession plans for key roles within the organization. Where warranted, we asked boards to improve proxy circular disclosure on this topic going forward.
- Employee retention: Most industries experienced an increase in employee turnover in 2022. Where relevant, we asked board members to speak to their oversight of employee turnover and their oversight of employee retention strategies. Where relevant, we also discussed employee turnover by region, division or relative to peers and invited boards to speak to factors, beyond current labour market conditions, that have contributed to an uptick in employee turnover at their organizations.

### *Board oversight of material business risks or corporate strategy*

In 2022, over 15% of the topics we engaged on dealt with board oversight of material business risks or board oversight of corporate strategy. While we continue to ask boards to discuss their process to oversee the most material risks facing the business or the board's contribution in setting business strategy, in 2022 almost 80% of our discussions on business risks and on corporate strategy dealt with how boards are overseeing a material environmental risk, such as climate-related risks, or a material social risk, such as those related to employee health and safety and local community relationship management.

- Climate-related risks and strategy: Prior to each meeting, we assess whether a company is providing sufficient disclosure in order for investors to: (I) assess a company's exposure to climate-related transition risks, and (II) where relevant, assess a company's strategy to address transition risks. In 2022, where disclosure was limited and where a company's business was materially exposed to climate-related risks, we encouraged boards to consider enhancing disclosure in line with the TCFD

framework. Where relevant, we invited boards to discuss the effectiveness of the company's plan to mitigate transition risks or the robustness of the company's strategy to adapt to a low carbon economy.

- Local community engagement and relationship management: In 2022, where maintaining strong relationships with local communities (including local Indigenous communities) was vital to a company's success, we asked boards to comment on how they assess the effectiveness of the company's strategy or long-term goals in this area. Where relevant, we asked boards to comment on whether they directly engage with representatives of local communities in order to gauge the effectiveness of the company's relationship with such communities. We also asked boards to discuss considerations such as the extent to which local suppliers are included in the company's supply chain, whether the company provides employment opportunities to members of the local community, and whether the board regularly reviews a breakdown of the company's workforce – employees and contractors – for local community representation.

### *Director-shareholder engagement & shareholder feedback*

Finally, through our engagement program we continue to encourage boards to directly engage with shareholders on a regular basis. When a significant proportion of shareholders oppose the election of a director or the approval of a management resolution, we inquire whether boards have taken steps to understand and potentially address shareholder concerns.

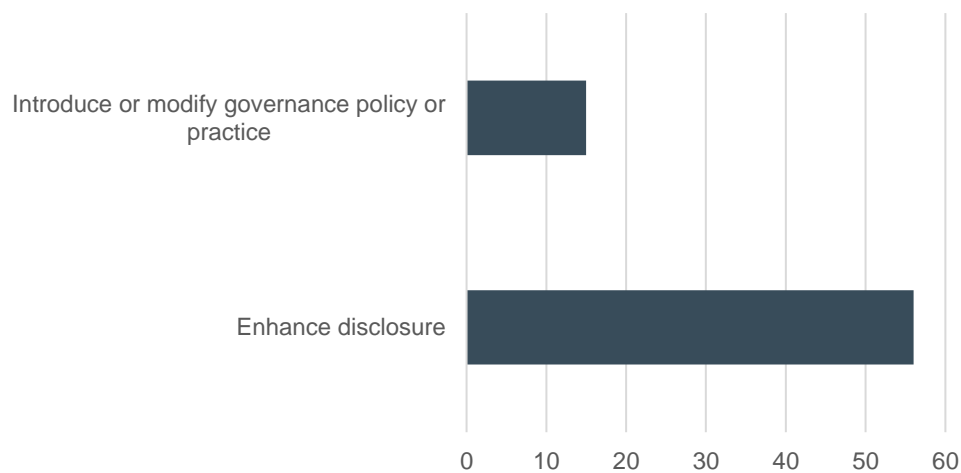
## Recommendations

In 2022, we made over 70 recommendations to either: (I) introduce or modify a governance policy or practice, or (II) enhance disclosure.

The vast majority of our recommendations to introduce or modify a policy or practice related to executive compensation or share ownership, whereas most recommendations to enhance disclosure fell under one of the following five categories:

- Environmental or social disclosure aligned with SASB’s industry-specific recommendations or TCFD recommendations.
- Executive compensation decision-making, including board scrutiny of non-GAAP performance measures and performance measures and targets on which compensation decisions are based.
- Goals, targets or programs aimed at improving gender diversity within senior management positions, including within critical roles over time.
- Director skills and experiences and board succession planning.
- Management succession planning, employee turnover and local community representation within the company’s workforce.

### 2022 Engagements (recommendations)



## 2023 ENGAGEMENT PLAN

In 2023, we will continue to select engagement candidates primarily based on the following criteria:

- The company's prior meeting history with CCGG,
- CCGG Member common share ownership in the company,
- The company's market capitalization, and
- Input provided by the CCGG Board of Directors and Member organizations.

We will also continue to select engagement candidates from the TSX Composite Index and, to the extent possible, will try to include a company from every major sector within the Composite Index. We also anticipate meeting with companies across a range of market capitalizations.

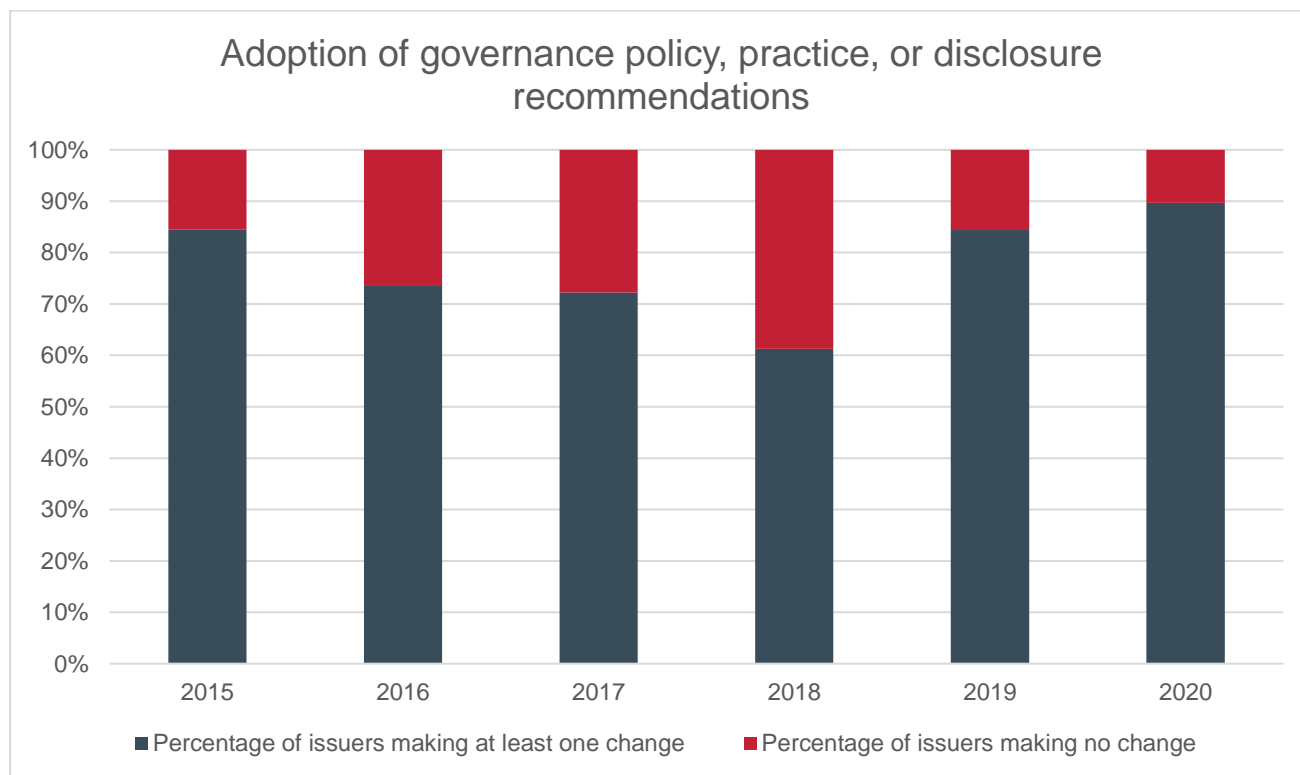
We will continue to tailor our engagement meeting discussions to each company's ESG practices and disclosure, however, we anticipate that the following six items will continue to represent a significant part of our meeting agendas:

- Board oversight of executive compensation,
- Board composition, skills, and succession planning,
- Board oversight of management composition and succession planning,
- Board oversight of material business risks,
- Board oversight of business strategy, and
- Director-shareholder engagement & shareholder feedback.

We also anticipate that, where relevant, environmental issues, including climate-related topics, and social issues, including diversity, employee health & safety, local community relationship management, and cybersecurity, will continue to be a part of our conversations on board & management composition, risk oversight, corporate strategy and executive compensation. Furthermore, where relevant, we will continue to encourage boards to enhance company disclosure to better align with one or more of SASB's industry-specific recommendations or TCFD recommendations.

## ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

Since 2018, CCGG has undertaken an annual internal review of engagement meetings held in prior years to assess the impact CCGG has had on governance policies, practices and disclosure of public companies with whom we engage. Our annual assessments have typically shown that 70% of the boards we engage with end up making at least one material positive change to their governance policies, practices or disclosure within two years of meeting with CCGG.



### 2022 assessment

For each individual issuer with whom CCGG had engaged in 2020, the review process consisted of:

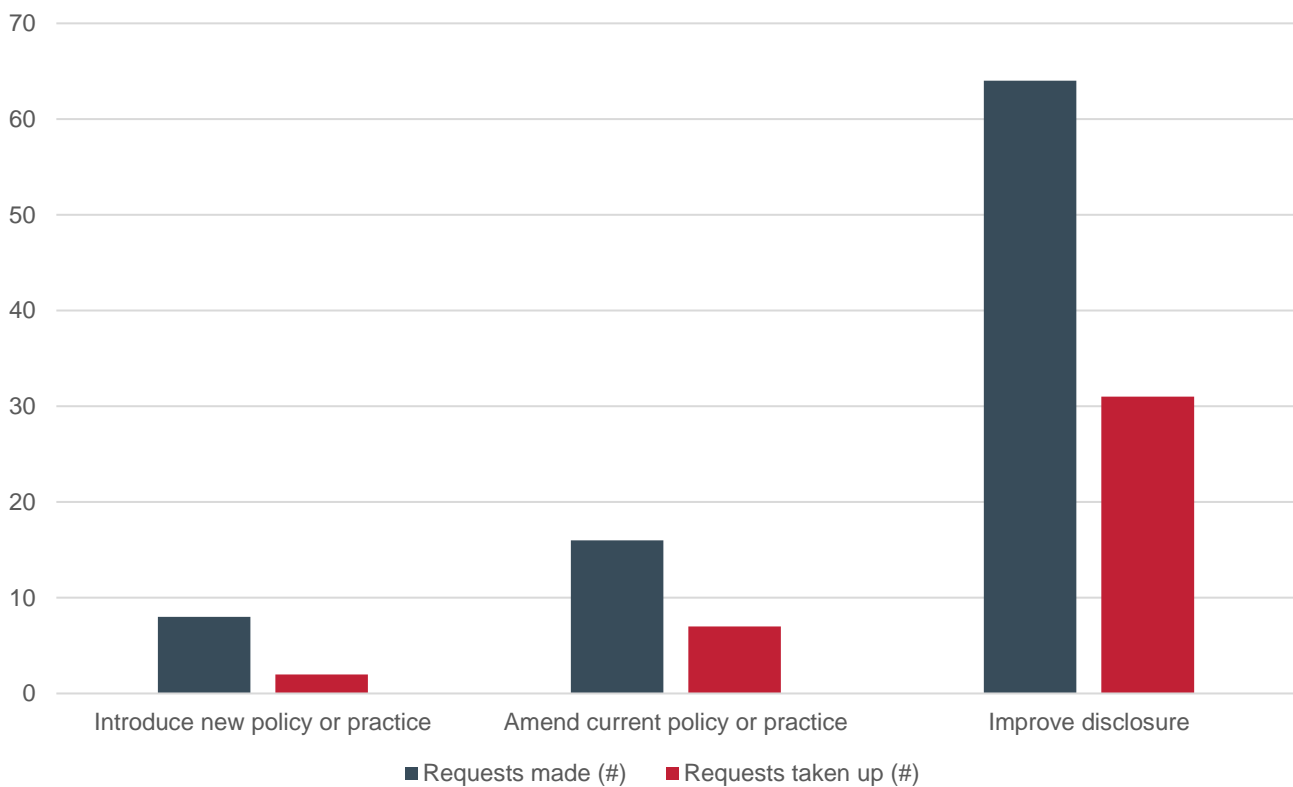
1. A review of the post-meeting summary report (available in the [Members' Area](#) of the CCGG website) to identify whether any specific recommendations were made in one of the following areas:
  - ***New policy or practice adoption,***
  - ***Existing policy or practice amendment, or***
  - ***Disclosure enhancement.***
2. A review of each issuer's management information circular or other public documents issued in 2022 to determine the extent to which CCGG's recommendations had subsequently been taken up by the issuer approximately two (2) years after the meeting took place.

## 2022 findings

CCGG met with the boards of 32 companies in 2020. Of the 32 companies with whom we engaged, data gathered from 29 meetings<sup>1</sup> was analyzed to assess CCGG’s impact on governance policies, practices and disclosure.

We tracked a total of 88 specific recommendations that were communicated to 29 issuer boards. Based on our review of 2022 information circulars, **26 of the 29 issuers (about 90%) had made at least one material positive change to their governance policies, practices or disclosure.**

2020 Board Engagements  
(88 requests tracked)



<sup>1</sup> Two of the three companies that were excluded from our analysis are no longer publicly listed and at one of the three meetings no requests to improve disclosure or modify practice were made.

## APPENDIX A: CCGG MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo)	Lincluden Investment Management Limited
Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF)	Manulife Investment Management Limited
Archdiocese of Toronto	NAV Canada Pension Plan
BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited	Northwest & Ethical Investments L.P. (NEI Investments)
BMO Global Asset Management Inc.	Ontario Municipal Employee Retirement System (OMERS)
Burgundy Asset Management Ltd.	Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP)
Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec	OPSEU Pension Trust
Canada Pension Plan Investments (CPP Investments)	PCJ Investment Counsel Ltd.
Canada Post Corporation Registered Pension Plan	Pension Plan of the United Church of Canada Pension Fund
Capital International Asset Management (Canada), Inc.	Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments)
CIBC Asset Management Inc.	QV Investors Inc.
Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Pension Plan	RBC Global Asset Management Inc.
Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd.	Régimes de retraite de la Société de transport de Montréal
Desjardins Global Asset Management	RPIA
Fiera Capital Corporation	Scotia Global Asset Management
Forthlane Partners Inc.	Sionna Investment Managers Inc.
Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon	SLC Management Canada
Franklin Templeton Investments Corp.	State Street Global Advisors, Ltd. (SSgA)
Galibier Capital Management Ltd.	Summerhill Capital Management Inc.
Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP)	TD Asset Management Inc.
Hillsdale Investment Management Inc.	Teachers' PP Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador
IGM Financial Inc.	Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund
Investment Management Corporation of Ontario (IMCO)	UBC Investment Management Trust Inc.
Industrial Alliance Investment Management Inc.	University Pension Plan Ontario
Jarislowsky Fraser Limited	University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation
Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd.	Vestcor Inc.
Letko, Brousseau & Associates Inc.	York University Pension Fund

## CCGG Board of Directors

Bruce Cooper, Board Chair Chief Executive Officer, TD Asset Management Inc.	Marcia Moffat, Board Vice-Chair Managing Director - Head of Canada, BlackRock	Helen Beck EVP and Head of Equity Markets, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec
Julie Cordeiro VP, CAO & General Counsel, Burgundy Asset Management Ltd.	Phil Cotterill Head of Client Solutions, CCL Investment Management Ltd.	Duane Green President and CEO, Franklin Templeton Investments Canada
Dawn Jia President and Chief Executive Officer, UBC Investment Management Trust Inc.	Michael Kelly Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer, OMERS	Peter Letko Senior Vice-President, Letko Brosseau Investment Management
Peter Lindley President and Chief Executive Officer, OPTrust	Maxime Ménard President & Chief Executive Officer, Jarislowsky Fraser Limited	Amit Prakash Chief Fiduciary Management Officer, Alberta Investment Management Corp.
Mary Throop Partner, Summerhill Capital Management	Eduard van Gelderen SVP and Chief Investment Officer, PSP Investments	Jeff Wendling President & Chief Executive Officer, Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan