

Terms of Reference for Endorsing Organization

The Taskforce for Women's Enterprise Growth is a national and non-partisan consortium of prominent women business owners, SME service agencies, academics, and industry associations. The goal of the Taskforce is to grow women's enterprise through the creation of public policy, advocacy, applied research, collaboration and sharing of best practices. Founded in 2009, the Taskforce actively seeks the support of Canadian small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) business, trade or sector associations, SME training services, academic institutions and related intermediaries.

Benefits to endorsing organizations: Endorsing organizations will benefit from participation through updates about milestones and related outcomes about policy, research and best practice associated with the Taskforce mandate. The updates are also intended to keep the emerging network of Endorsing Organizations informed about new initiatives associated with women's enterprise. Endorsing organizations will also be invited to participate in pending pan-Canadian roundtables. There are no financial costs or fees associated with Endorsement of the Taskforce.

A list of Endorsing Organizations is listed on the Taskforce web-site.

Terms of reference: Endorsing Organizations are agencies or institutions whose Executive endorses the *Taskforce Blueprint Action Strategies*.

- Endorsing organizations agree to communicate with their members and other stakeholders about the Taskforce. Communication will include, but is not limited to, a supporting statement by the Executive about the Taskforce. Communication will include a request that the recipient visit the Taskforce web-site to learn about the initiative. The communication will also request that the recipient consider signing the Taskforce on-line petition. Ideally, Endorsing Organizations will forward one or more follow-up reminders to recipients.
- Endorsing Organizations are encouraged to circulate additional (soft and hard copy) information about the Taskforce. This is in order to obtain additional endorsee signatures. Names and related contact information obtained through hard copy petitions will be entered into the on-line petition by the Endorsing Organization or Chair of the Taskforce. The list of *Endorsee* names/firm contact information and signatures will be forwarded to the Taskforce Chair for verification and filing. Note: The list of endorsee contact information will not be circulated to any other party, including Taskforce members and their agencies or institutions.