



Capitals Hub Canada

**UNEA Regional Consultation:
Action on Climate, Biodiversity, & Pollution**





Definitions:

Human capital is a concept used to designate personal attributes considered useful in the production process. It encompasses employee knowledge, skills, know-how, good health, and education.

Social capital is the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.

Addressing the impact of climate change requires addressing its underlying causes. In these efforts there has been an overwhelming focus on the scientific - the pure “How” of reversing the effects of traditionally unchecked and unregulated industrial and societal practices.



While this is undeniably a critical part of the solution, the underlying societal drivers (social capital) and individual drivers (human capital) that have fueled 100+ years of decisions leading to the current environmental crisis are still as influential, if not more influential, than before.

If there is any hope of embedding longevity into the sustainable solutions being discussed here today, we must not only understand and value the “How” but also the “Why”



Until recently, the concept of valuing natural, social, and human capital was thought to be impractical, if not near impossible, and definitely not something that corporations or governments would pursue.

As we have seen with the radical shift toward measuring nature-related impacts and dependencies, decision-makers now understand how this contributes to implementing evergreen sustainability solutions. You will see, over the next few decades, the same shift happen with social and human capital.

The Capitals Coalition is one of the driving forces behind this change, and has championed natural, social, and human capital protocols which empower corporations and governments to account for the financial impacts of these capitals in their decision-making processes.

Okay great...



But how does all of this apply to today's consultation?



The science behind effectively addressing these six areas may be siloed, but they are not environmentally or societally siloed from one another.

For example, the land under which critical minerals are found is almost always subject to indigenous historical rights, protecting water for humans and ecosystems is inextricably linked with both issues of runoff and air pollution, et cetera ad nauseum.

I urge you to find those points of intersection, of complementarity, where co-created solutions across these categorical silos can lead to overarching solutions that meet global needs. And when doing so, consider the implications on impacted societies and the people within them.

Because if the environmental remediation strategies fail to account for and enhance the functioning / well-being of the individuals and communities that they impact, the chances of them having long-term positive impacts are slim to none.



THANK YOU

Contact

[Jameson Jones-Doyle](#)

Executive Director, Capitals Hub Canada

www.capitalshubcanada.org