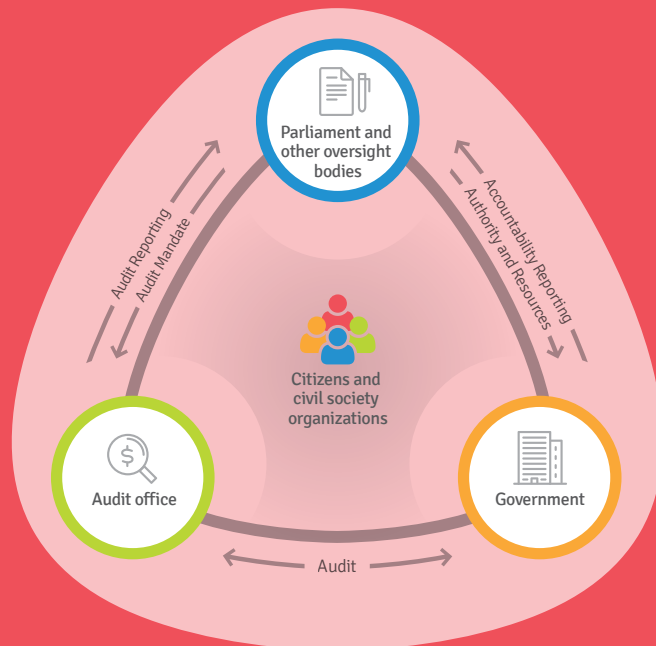


ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

How can CIVIL SOCIETY engage in the accountability process?

In the public sector accountability system, we all have a role to play in advancing gender equality. Here's what **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS** can do.



As part of a civil society organization (CSO), you can engage with your legislative audit office to contribute to the planning and the execution of audits. When CSOs collaborate with audit offices, they can reinforce each other's goals and better hold governments accountable for their commitments to gender equality.

How do auditors address gender equality?

Auditors, like the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, examine government operations and results. Their performance audits include findings on what is or isn't working well and make practical recommendations for improvements.

Performance audits can examine how governments are fulfilling their commitments to gender equality. They can look at:



How can you contribute to audits on gender equality?

- ▶ **Suggest an audit topic** or raise issues of concern relating to gender equality.
- ▶ **Share your knowledge and expertise** about gender equality by participating in consultation processes during an audit.
- ▶ **Support the audit office's collection of evidence** to help auditors best understand how a program is or isn't working for diverse beneficiaries.
- ▶ **Publicize audit findings and recommendations** within your network and engage the media to help build public pressure for improvements.
- ▶ **Monitor audit recommendations** and continue putting pressure on governments to take actions and make improvements towards gender equality.

Why collaborate with audit offices?

It's a win-win! Not only will your contributions help make audits of gender equality more effective, but you can:

- ▶ **Give voice to the communities you work with** and help them be heard in the accountability process.
- ▶ **Access reliable and independent data** in audit reports that you can use to support your advocacy.
- ▶ **Help shape government programming** through audit recommendations.
- ▶ **Be part of holding government accountable** for its gender equality commitments.

How can you reach out to audit offices?

- ▶ Include the audit office in your stakeholder engagement strategy and any working groups focused on gender equality or the SDGs.
- ▶ Invite the audit office to participate in your activities that educate people about gender equality issues.
- ▶ Watch for opportunities to consult on or provide input to the office's plans or specific audits.

