

Promoting the Value of CSO-Audit Office Collaboration

Civil society organizations (CSOs) advocate for better policies and services, mobilize citizens, and demand increased civic engagement in government processes. When legislative audit offices and CSOs collaborate, they can reinforce each other's goals and better hold governments accountable.

If you want to help CSOs learn more about the work of auditors, encourage them to reach out to your audit office, and give them tips and tools to support effective collaboration, you can share resources developed by CAAF.

For audit offices, collaborating with CSOs can:



- Facilitate communication with citizens and increase the visibility of audit reports
- Provide access to civil society knowledge to help identify audit topics and better understand the effectiveness of government programs
- Help follow up on government's implementation of audit recommendations

CAAF resources

1. [The Collaborating for Change publications](#) explain the concepts of performance auditing and describe the complementary roles of CSOs and auditors in holding governments accountable. They also provide tips and tools to help CSOs collaborate with audit offices, including a pre-engagement questionnaire and checklist, as well as case studies of successful collaborations.
2. [This video for CSOs](#) explains and promotes the importance of collaboration.
3. [This report](#) illustrates how audit offices are engaging with CSOs, based on a survey we conducted of more than 40 offices from across Canada and around the world.

How you can spread the word

CAAF wants to support audit offices, and any other interested stakeholders, to spread the word about the important value of CSO-audit office collaboration and share these resources with CSOs. On the following pages we provide sample messages, images and links you can use to do so.

Sharing on social media

There are a few ways you can share the importance of CSO-audit office collaboration on social media:

1. **Repost CAAF's messages on Twitter or LinkedIn:** Below are links to our general posts about the *Collaborating for Change* series. More posts can be found on our social media pages.
 - Twitter: https://twitter.com/CAAF_FCAR/status/1325902386796371972
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6731985108594634752>
2. **Share the video from CAAF's YouTube channel:** Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYzZ9dosTTM and click the "share" button.
3. **Post your own message:** Please use the hashtag [#CollaboratingForChange](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CollaboratingForChange) to be part of our ongoing conversation on this topic. Tag [@CAAF_FCAR](https://twitter.com/CAAF_FCAR) on Twitter or [Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/canadian-audit-and-accountability-foundation) on LinkedIn and we will be sure to share your posts.

Sample messages are provided below. (These are written for Twitter and can be adapted for other platforms). The video and images can be downloaded [here](#).

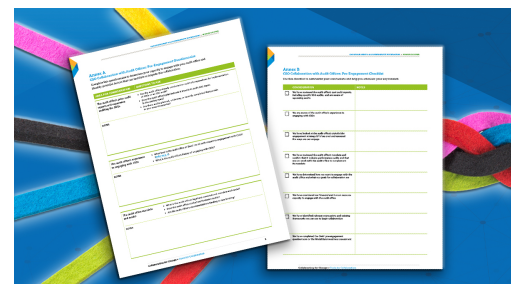
There are many benefits to collaboration between civil society organizations and audit offices, especially when holding governments accountable for the #SDGs. Learn more in this video and resources from @CAAF_FCAR: <https://bit.ly/3eqg1cI> #CollaboratingForChange



Collaboration between CSOs and audit offices is pivotal for holding governments accountable for the #SDGs. Want to collaborate with us but not sure where to begin? Read @CAAF_FCAR publications on the topic: <https://bit.ly/3eqg1cI> #CollaboratingForChange



This questionnaire (<https://bit.ly/2M2Mcqd>) + checklist (<https://bit.ly/39RJf3R>) can help civil society organizations prepare to engage with audit offices. Find them, plus tips, case studies and more, in resources from @CAAF_FCAR: <https://bit.ly/3eqg1cI> #CollaboratingForChange



Sharing on your website, in emails, newsletters and elsewhere

Including messaging on your website or in other public communications is a great way to show citizens and civil society organizations that you value their input and collaboration. We've prepared some sample messaging below to help you get a head start. Don't forget to include information on how CSOs or citizens can contact your office and other information specific to your office. Feel free to add other imagery or our video on the topic.

We value the insights and assistance that citizens and civil society can contribute to audits. When civil society organizations (CSOs) and audit offices work together, they can reinforce each other's goals and both be more effective in seeking accountability. For CSOs, the benefits of collaboration include opportunities to have their communities' views included when auditors assess the effectiveness of government programs, to contribute to shaping government programs and operations, and to access data in audit reports that can make CSOs' advocacy more effective.

CSOs can find information, strategies and tools to help them engage with audit offices in publications prepared by the Canadian Audit and Accountability Foundation and Women Deliver. They have a special focus on how CSOs and audit offices can collaborate to hold governments accountable for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Access the publications here: <https://caaf-fcar.ca/en/performance-audit/research-and-methodology/collaborating-for-change>



We're here to help!

If you have questions or would like more information, please email info@caaf-fcar.ca.

The French version of this document can be found [here](#).