



**CRI**

Centre for Regulatory Innovation

## Regulators' Capacity Fund

Standards Council of  
Canada (SCC)

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### *Modernizing the Monitoring Standards in Regulation Tool*

The incorporation by reference of outdated standards in regulations can impede the ability of Canadian companies to follow current best practices and can cause confusion for industry when they need to determine the regulatory requirements that apply to them. SCC currently uses a software tool, a manual process, and a database, which collectively make up the Monitoring Standards in Regulation (MSR) tool to track references to standards in federal, provincial, and territorial regulations. This information helps regulators identify outdated references and inaccurate citations to standards in regulations and determine where regulatory updates may need to be made.

The MSR would benefit from increased automation, functionality to more efficiently track standards referenced in regulations and to be able to provide more real-time data to regulators. This would increase the capacity of regulators to be informed about these standards and help address the issue of outdated references and inaccurate citations to standards. If regulators had better access to tailored and current standards information they would be better equipped to review, anticipate and assess the impact of standards updates on regulations and could evaluate and plan for regulatory updates accordingly. Modernizing the MSR could remedy these issues, but SCC would first need to improve its understanding of regulators' information needs and consider a range of possible design elements.

SCC began by engaging with regulators to determine their needs with respect to the MSR, and by conducting a data source analysis to better understand the design input requirements that modernization entails. Through this process, they learned that the modernization of the MSR will require automation of one of its processes, which will in turn require its database architecture to be redesigned. In order to enable this future data re-architecture project, SCC conducted an assessment of the database architecture issues and began developing a final business case analysis and recommendation for the tool's modernization.

SCC developed a comprehensive user needs assessment, conducted federal government engagement on standards in regulation, and coordinated and planned internally for the modernization of the MSR. These outputs will inform and support SCC's ongoing efforts to modernize the MSR. The current MSR is already an innovative tool for providing insight into how regulatory references to standards can be managed and improved, and once its functionality has been improved, through automation for example, it will enable further innovation, support good regulatory practice, and increase regulatory capacity.