

CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full name: **Alison Schneider**

Job title: **Vice-President Responsible Investment**

Signatory organisation name: **Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo)**

Signatory organisation seconding your candidacy: **British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI)**



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

This is an exciting time of transition for the PRI. I would like to serve on the Board of Directors as the organization navigates its next phase of growth. Now with 4,000 signatories, the PRI has an opportunity to further its big-tent philosophy with a strategy that is meaningful and relevant to various signatory types across global jurisdictions.

In my role as Vice-President of RI at AIMCo, a leading institutional investor, I have been a 'flagbearer' of the PRI for over a decade. Its thought leadership has been invaluable in my own work, and for my peers and partners around the world. I serve on the PRI's SDG advisory committee, regional Western N. American committee and AIMCo is an active participant in the Climate Action 100+ initiative.

With the survey pause scheduled for 2022, the PRI is at a natural inflection point, and I welcome the opportunity to positively influence its future. The work ahead is critical. It's time to reflect and engage with the signatory base and key stakeholders to determine how best to proceed in advancing sustainable finance.

What do I bring to the table? I have a track record of bringing new ways of thinking to established organizations. As a seasoned RI practitioner, I've worked with colleagues to develop and lead a successful RI program at AIMCo, featuring ever deeper integration of ESG factors into investment processes across asset classes, custom ESG analytics and concerted stewardship and advocacy

activities. I am a trusted collaborator to peers and have a global network of RI colleagues and robust governance experience. I have lived all over the world and bring a global mindset to everything I do.

My vision for PRI is that it be truly global, future-focused and as meaningful and relevant to the PRI signatories in 2050 as it was at inception in 2005. The PRI should strive to ensure that all signatories are appropriately represented, no matter the size of the fund entity or where it is located. The PRI has an opportunity to encourage deeper member engagement and collaboration, including with its academic network to harness the full weight of its signatory base. The PRI is in a strong position to help signatories work alongside it in the journey to advance sustainable markets.

The PRI remains the world's leading authority on responsible investment. It would be my honour and privilege to contribute to its ongoing success.

BIOGRAPHY

Alison is Vice-President, Responsible Investment at Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo). She established the department in 2011 and leads the RI team. AIMCo is considered a global leader in RI. Alison has contributed to the development of national and global sustainable finance frameworks and is a published author, co-authoring the textbook *New Frontiers of Sovereign Investment* (2017) for Columbia University, the [ICGN's Guidance on Fiduciary Duty](#) (2018) and [ICGN's Guidance on Diversity on Boards](#) (2016).

Alison is a co-founder of GRESB Infrastructure, having chaired the original investor working group that led to its launch in 2015. Alison chairs the GRESB Infrastructure advisory board and previously chaired the shareholder's responsibility committee of ICGN. She also sits on committees for Canadian Coalition of Good Governance, Investor Leadership Network (Climate Action) and on various working groups for organizations including 30% Club Canada, Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities and PRI.

She is a volunteer instructor for Canadian Climate Law Initiative, Institute of Corporate Directors and ILN's Sustainable Infrastructure Fellowship. Alison was recently honoured with a University of Alberta distinguished alumni award for her work in RI, and with Canada's [Clean50 Award](#) (2021) and related [Top Project Award](#) (2020). Alison has presented on RI at the United Nations, Cambridge University and many conferences including PRI, RIA, ICGN, Globe and RI Europe.

Alison has an MBA from University of Alberta, a BA from University of British Columbia, and an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors. Alison is founder and past-president of the Net Impact Edmonton professional chapter, and past-president of the Junior League of Edmonton. Early in her career, she established the Canadian division of US-based Southwestern Publishing Company, paving the way for further international expansion.

SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Alberta Investment Management (AIMCo) is one of Canada's largest and most diversified institutional investment managers with more than \$123 billion of assets under management as of June 30, 2021. AIMCo was established on January 1, 2008, with a mandate to provide superior long-term investment results for its clients. AIMCo operates at arms-length from the Government of Alberta and invests globally on behalf of 32 pension, endowment, and government funds in the Province of Alberta.

AIMCo employs more than 500 full-time, permanent employees, 90% of whom live in Alberta and contribute to the shared prosperity of their communities. AIMCo has offices in Edmonton, Toronto, London, and Luxembourg.

Vision & Values

AIMCo's vision is to enrich the lives of Albertans by building prosperity, security and opportunity across generations. The organization's core values are excellence, transparency, humility, integrity and collaboration.

Clients

AIMCo operates in a unique, multi-client ecosystem. It serves as the investment manager for nine public sector pension plans in Alberta. AIMCo also manages investments for the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, a pioneer among sovereign wealth funds valued at \$18.3 billion as of June 30, 2021. AIMCo also manages the assets of a number of special purpose and short-term government funds.

Investments

AIMCo's investment management teams ensure assets entrusted to AIMCo by its clients are invested strategically and in alignment with their respective investment policies to produce sustainable, long-term investment performance. The corporation invests across all asset classes including fixed income, public equities, real estate, infrastructure, renewable resources and private equity.

AIMCo consistently integrates environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions while also earning superior returns for clients.

Governance

AIMCo is committed to the highest standards of corporate governance — including a highly-qualified, skills-based Board of Directors appointed by Alberta's Lieutenant Governor in Council.

SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Early in my tenure at AIMCo I designed and secured executive buy-in to establish AIMCo's RI governance framework, including the RI policy and related guidelines such as exclusions, proxy voting, engagements, committee terms and RI strategy. Today, RI considerations extend across AIMCo's entire investment platform, for over \$120 billion AUM, reflecting a change management journey and iterative process.

Over the past decade I've trained a team of sustainability professionals dedicated to ESG integration, stewardship, ESG analytics, advocacy and ESG-related reporting, and built networks of like-minded professionals inside and outside my organization. I encourage collaboration to promote new ways of thinking, for example in assembling cross-functional working groups to address climate risk and opportunity.

Similarly, I've established and lead sustainability committees across investment and support functions to further ESG integration. In addition to managing RI across the organization, I am responsible for 'managing up' — educating and engaging AIMCo's most senior executives and board. I regularly report to and seek feedback from clients and launched an RI client symposium in 2021.

I am a thinker and a doer in the ESG space. For example, I was involved in the initial stages and development of a global ESG benchmark for real assets, GRESB. I chaired the original investor working group and recruited other investor peers to be co-founders. I have developed and taught sustainability modules for the Institute of Corporate Directors. Locally, I founded the Edmonton chapter of Net Impact aimed at sustainability professionals and established a local International Women's Day event and C-suite roundtable.

GENERAL

DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP WITHIN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG EXPERTISE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE PRI.

I've contributed to global RI thought leadership, co-authoring a textbook for Columbia University (The New Frontiers of Sovereign Investment) leading publications for ICGN (Guidance on Fiduciary Duty, Guidance on Diversity) and contributing to the ILN's Investor Guidance to TCFD (2019) and Climate Change Mitigation and Your Portfolio (2020).

I actively collaborate with institutional investor peers within the context of RI-member organizations, such as Canadian Coalition of Good Governance, 30% Club Canada, Responsible Investment Association, and the PRI to advocate for best practices, such as relevant and comparable ESG disclosure. Examples include letters to stock exchanges requesting they issue sustainability disclosure guidance to issuers in their market, a letter of support for the SEC's consultation regarding the need for climate disclosure regulation; a letter supporting proposed Modern Slavery legislation, and support to the Ontario Capital Markets Taskforce's call for mandatory say on pay and disclosure of diversity beyond gender at Canadian issuers. Similarly, I co-authored the RIA Canadian Investor statement on Diversity and Inclusion setting out expectations for Canadian investee companies on diversity as well as investor commitments.

I manage more than a dozen RI-member relationships and participate in committees focused on various aspects of sustainability such as lowering the barriers to sustainable infrastructure, promoting diversity, speeding up implementation of climate disclosure, advancing good governance and efficient markets. I chair the GRESB Infrastructure advisory board and co-chaired the shareholder responsibility committee for ICGN until recently.

My volunteer efforts reflect my desire to make a difference, to shape the sustainability leaders of today and tomorrow, whether by providing curriculum guidance to professors, speaking to business classes, or as a mentor to young women in finance. I am also a volunteer instructor for Canadian Climate Law Initiative and Investor Leadership Network's Sustainable Infrastructure Fellowship for emerging market infrastructure professionals.