

## Understandings of Individualism, Collectivism and Common Good

### Common good:

Securing the common good means putting the public interest above narrow self-interest and group demands; working to achieve social and economic conditions that benefit everyone; promoting a personal, governmental and corporate ethic of responsibility and service to others; creating a more open and honest governmental structure that relies upon an engaged and participatory citizenry; and doing more to meet our common responsibilities to aid the disadvantaged, protect our natural resources, and provide opportunities rather than burdens for future generations.

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The common good is the earth, the commons, humanity’s shared heritage. The common good is respect for fundamental individual and collective rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, various international conventions and protocols and our Canadian and Québec charters. The common good is all the values, rules and institutions that a society develops to ensure the well-being of all. The common good is the beacon that helps eliminate exclusions and the tool for rebuilding tattered social relations. It is the common wealth of a society. It calls on us to be aware of others, and urges us to take strides towards commitment and action for justice, equality in law and in fact, solidarity and freedom.

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### Individualism:

Belief in the primary importance of the individual and in the principles (30-1) and values (30-2) of individual rights and freedoms, self-interest, competition, economic freedom, rule of law, private property.

### Collectivism:

Belief in the primary importance of the group or community and in the principles (30-1) and values (30-2) of collective responsibility, collective interest, cooperation, economic equality, adherence to collective norms, public property.