

# Conference Report

Name: Joel Swaan

Conference: Shareholders Association for  
Research and Education (SHARE)

Investor Summit 2021

Dates: February 16-19, 2021

Location: Online

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## SUMMARY

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As Chair of the Disability Benefits Plan Investment Committee, I had the privilege to attend the virtual SHARE Investor Summit 2021 through a motion passed by DBPIC. The online conference was held over four days with an in-depth session and a campaign spotlight each morning, and a thematic session in the afternoon. Most sessions had a focus towards matters related to ESG Investing: Environmental, Social, and Governance causes. Here are some key takeaways:

In the first session, “Mobilizing for a Green COVID-19 Recovery”, Demond Drummer talked about how economic thinking needs to shift from *profitable* investments to *productive* investments: investments that add new value to society.

When vetting asset managers, the advice is to look at their holdings and their voting records, which may not be public and might need to be requested. If they won't disclose that information, then they are hiding something. With regards to asking ESG questions, the asset manager needs to be able to answer the questions without diverting to the stewardship person or the salesperson: the person making investment decisions for you needs to be able to answer the questions.

When asking asset managers regarding Indigenous relations and reconciliation, some questions were given that would help identify business relationships that respond to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #92:

- Where in our portfolio do you see material risks or opportunities in relation to Indigenous rights? How do you monitor these and can you provide specific examples?
- Can you share your proxy voting records on votes related to Indigenous rights and reconciliation?
- How about internal practices? What is your own firm's engagement with Indigenous organizations? How do you train or build capacity in your own organization on Indigenous rights?

When looking at Climate effects, a target without a plan is just a dream. Investors and asset managers need to use their leverage to ensure companies are setting meaningful targets AND action plans AND reporting against that plan annually AND disclosing climate risk in their financials. Results are achieved when expectations are set and evaluated against a plan.

I look forward to the generative discussions that will come out of this professional development opportunity, the first of which has already begun as we are seeking statements from each of our investors around their position with regards to Reconciliation and Restitution, including any relationships they have with Indigenous Partnerships.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal line.

Joel Swaan, DBPIC Chair