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Purpose

To monitor, engage, inform and study how food environments and relevant policies in Canada support or inhibit children's dietary behaviours¹

To Develop an Annual Policy Report Card on Food Environments and Nutrition to:

- Assess how current environments and policies support or create barriers to improving children's dietary behaviours and body weights
- Increase awareness of the public, practitioners and policy makers of the relevance of food environments for health promotion and obesity prevention¹

Process

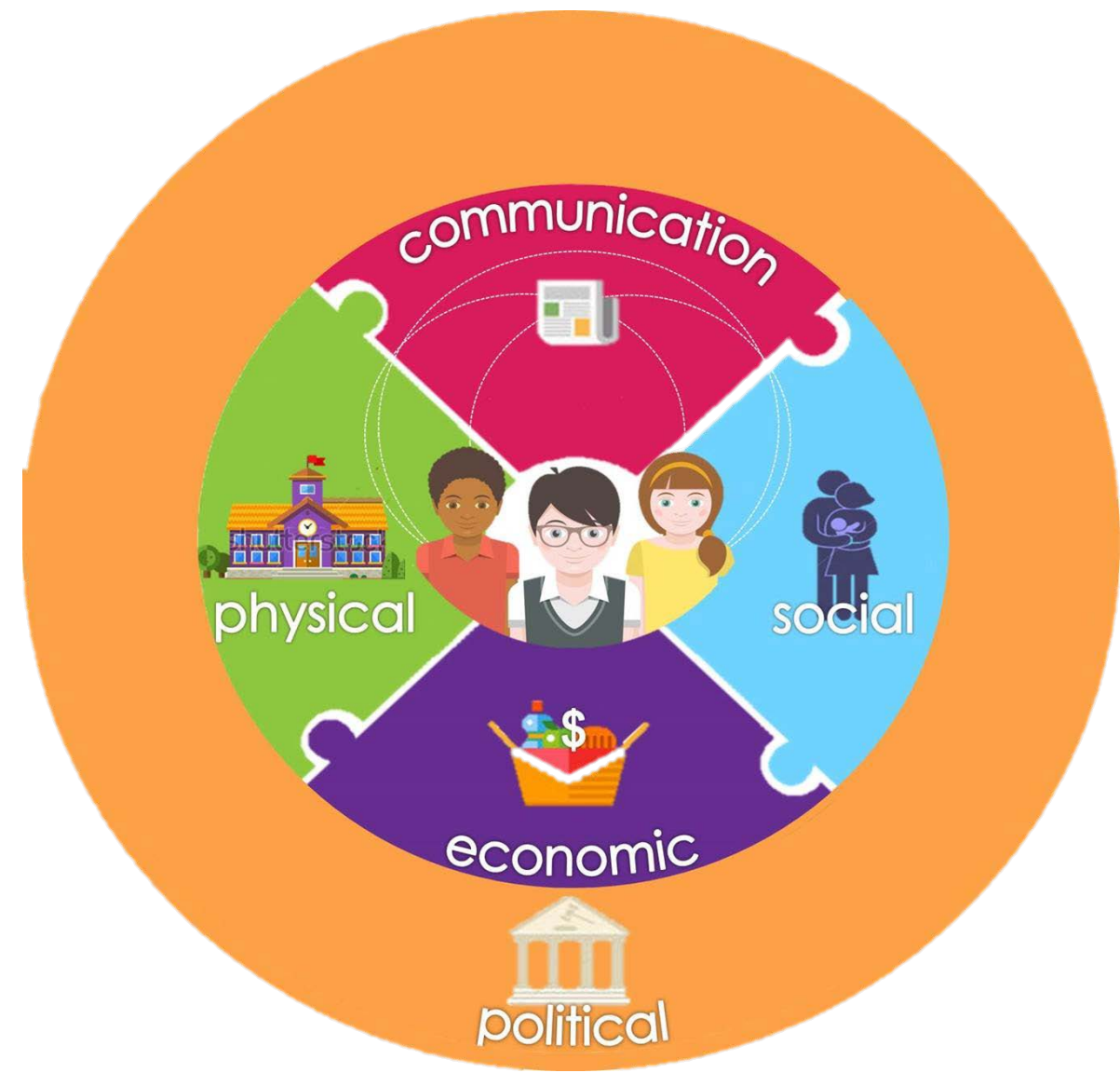
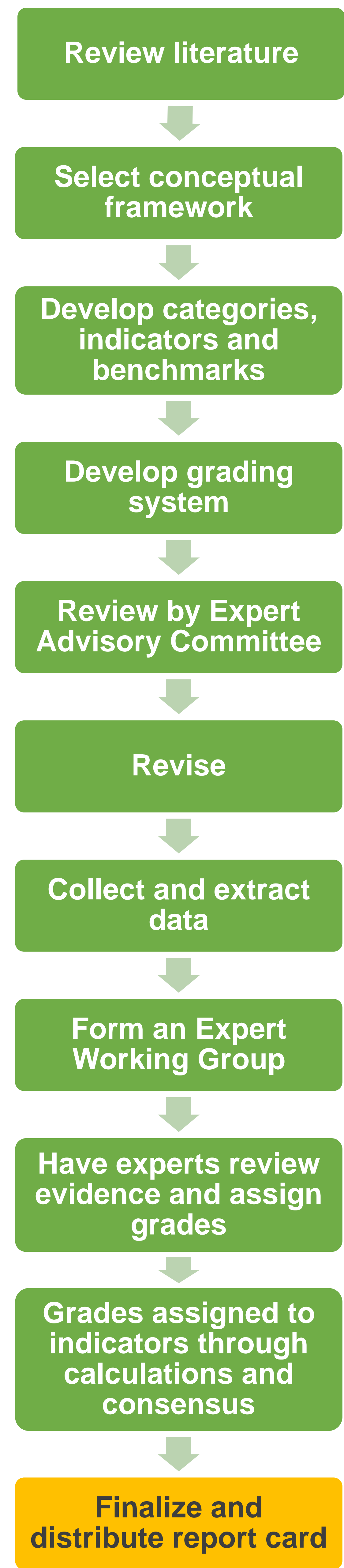
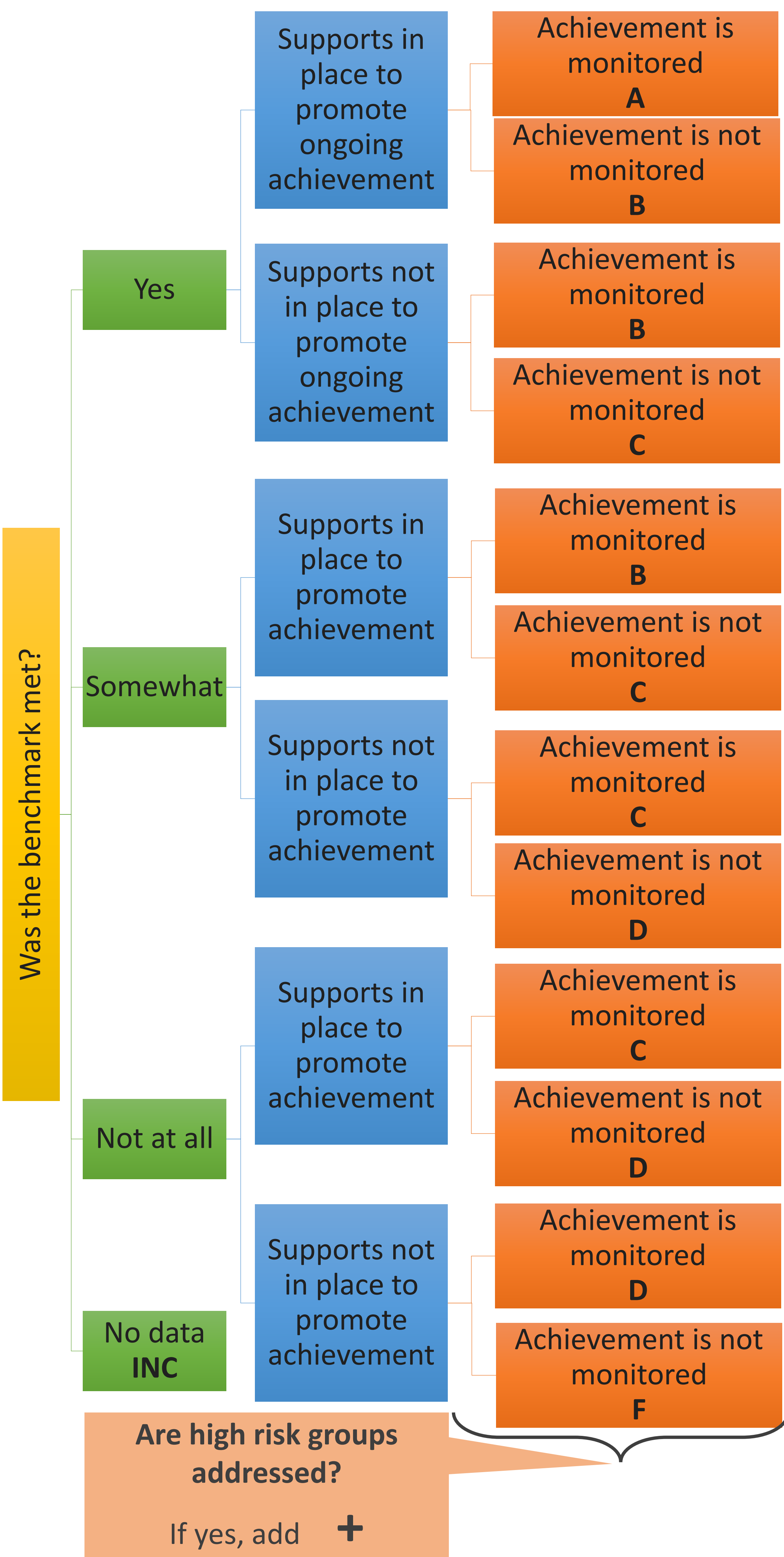


Figure 1. Adapted conceptual framework¹⁻³

Grading Scheme



Sample Report Card Grades

ENVIRONMENT	Category 2 Neighbourhood Availability of Restaurants and Food Stores: Policies and actions that reduce availability of less healthy types of restaurants and food stores around schools and within communities					
	Indicator: High availability of food stores and restaurants selling primarily healthy foods			Benchmark: The median modified retail food environment index across all census areas is ≥ 10 and for impoverished census areas is ≥ 7		
	Data	Benchmark met	Supports	Monitored	High Risk Group	Grade
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	% census tracts indicator is met City/ All/ Impoverished					
	AB Calgary/32.6/35.0 Edmonton/25.8/28.0	Somewhat	Yes	Yes	No	B
	QC Montréal/57.4/64.6 Québec City/ 56.3/64.1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	A
COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT	Category 5 Food Marketing: Policies and actions that support marketing of healthy foods and reduce/eliminate all forms of marketing of unhealthy foods to children (< 18 years)					
	Indicator: Restrictions on marketing unhealthy foods to children			Benchmark: All forms of marketing unhealthy foods to children are restricted		
	Data	Benchmark met	Supports	Monitored	High Risk Group	Grade
COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT	National initiatives exist, but not AB specific restrictions	Somewhat	Yes	No	No	C
	QC Consumer Protection Act – prohibits marketing to children <13yrs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	A- (monitoring not mandatory)
ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	Category 9 Government Nutrition Assistance Programs: Policies and actions that ensure low-income families can afford to purchase a nutritious diet					
	Indicator: Reduce childhood food insecurity			Benchmark: Reduce the proportion of children living in households that access food banks by 15% over 5 years		
	Data	Benchmark	Supports	Monitored	High Risk Group	Grade
ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	Hunger Count (Food Secure Canada) 2011-2014					
	AB - 16.8%	Somewhat	Yes	Yes	Yes	B+
	QC + 4.0%	Not at all	Yes	Yes	Yes	C+
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT	Category 13 Leadership and Coordination: Governments provide clear, comprehensive, transparent goals and action plans to improve children's dietary behaviours and body weights					
	Indicator: Population targets for childhood dietary behaviours and body weights			Benchmark: Evidence-based population targets for childhood dietary behaviours and body weights exist		
	Data	Benchmark met	Supports	Monitored	High Risk Group	Grade
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT	Healthy Living Strategy aligns with National targets	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	A
	QC Healthy Living Strategy aligns with National targets	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	A

Conclusion

- Grades achieved for all 41 indicators through application of the grading scheme and consensus decision-making process with the Expert Working Group
- Findings suggest that policy change to support children's food environments in Canada still requires significant investment
- Sites have unique strengths and weaknesses which can be opportunities for cross-jurisdictional learning for the promoting policy change and implementation to support children's food environments and nutrition

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