

A Policy Framework for Regulation and Compliance in Canada

Introduction

This is a policy framework that I will be commissioning from an institutional partner to determine the structural architecture of regulation and compliance in Canada as it applies across the full range of business scale, from the solo entrepreneur to the large corporation. The objective is not to measure the burden, which is already documented annually, but to examine the framework that produces it. This is the first step towards understanding what policies need to shift, what mandates need to be determined, what information needs to be executed, and what needs to happen in order to improve conditions for businesses across Canada. The goal is to establish a more balanced approach to policy governance in this country, which will also support our company mandate to protect and support businesses operating in Canada.

Deliverables

The project will produce a structural analysis of the regulatory and compliance framework across all levels of government. The analysis will determine:

- **Historical Origin** - The period in which the current framework began to take shape, the rationale behind major regulatory expansions, and the layers that have accumulated without consolidation.
- **Jurisdictional Structure** - The points at which federal, provincial, and municipal regulation intersect, duplicate, or conflict, and where businesses are required to satisfy multiple authorities for the same activity.
- **Application by Scale** - How the same regulations and compliance requirements apply across the range from solo entrepreneur to large corporation, and where the requirement is identical regardless of business size.
- **Structural Constraints** - The points at which the framework functions as a constraint on growth rather than a condition of it.
- **Policy Requirements** - What policies need to shift, what mandates need to be determined, and what changes would establish a more balanced approach.

Data and Research Categories

- Federal regulation, provincial regulation, and municipal bylaw frameworks
- Compliance requirements across the full range of business scale
- Historical regulatory development and the rationale behind major expansions
- Jurisdictional boundaries and areas of overlap
- Regulatory application across business size, sector, and stage
- Documented burden data as reference for structural correlation

Why This Matters

Once the structure of regulation and compliance is understood, the work becomes actionable. The research will identify the specific points where the framework overlaps, where jurisdictions duplicate each other, and where the burden becomes disproportionate. That is what allows policy to be targeted instead of general. Instead of asking for fewer regulations across the board, the work makes it possible to point at a specific mechanism and say this is where the imbalance is, and this is what would correct it.

For YSSL, this research is the foundation of a mandate to protect and support businesses across Canada. The goal is not to remove regulation, and it is not to weaken the safeguards the public depends on. The goal is balance. This document is the first step towards understanding where the balance has been lost, and what it would take to restore it.