

# How to Write a Goal

April 2024

### What is Goal Setting at OLG?

Goal Setting is a key step in OLG's Performance Management process. Goal Setting is a process where employees set clearly defined goals for the fiscal year that outline what they will accomplish.

Goals should be created in collaboration with your People Leader to drive business outcomes that align with OLG's Strategic Priorities and Initiatives.

## **Approach**

- Create 4 to 6 goals, in partnership with your People Leader. Each goal should support team, divisional, and/or organizational goals
- Goals should include measures and initiatives
  - Measures are quantifiable indicators that demonstrate whether a goal has been achieved. These are typically written as targets and stretch targets. For each goal, agree on a target with your People Leader. Some goals should also have stretch targets, the measure that will support an exceeds or exemplary rating on that goal
  - o Initiatives are activities that you will undertake to achieve your goal
- Goals need to be more challenging than day-to-day work, they should drive exceptional performance and outcomes
- How you achieve your goal is as important as achieving it. Therefore, measures and/or
  initiatives should include activities that are aligned with <u>OLG's Five Truths</u>. The Five Truths are:
  We Care for Ontario, We Play as One Team, We Celebrate our Differences, We Dream Big
  and Champion Change and We are Player Obsessed
  - For example, including language about collaboration with partners or considering diversity in your project would be an approach that aligns with the truths. Specifically, "We Play a One Team" and "We Celebrate our Differences". To learn more about OLG's Five Truths visit <a href="InsideOLG">InsideOLG</a>
- Share your goals with your team so that everyone's goals are aligned and there are no redundancies or gaps to achieve overarching team goals
- Use the S.M.A.R.T method. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time Bound

## What are S.M.A.R.T goals?

Well written goals include the following:

Specific	Clearly defined outcome stating exactly what needs to be accomplished	Relevant	Linked or aligned to departmental, divisional, and/or organizational wide priorities
Measurable	Must include a measure of success. This could be a key performance indicator (KPI) or a clearly defined outcome	Time Bound	A clear deadline or completion date. Include milestones on initiatives where possible
Attainable	Realistic but challenging – a goal typically requires extra effort or a creative new approach	Reminder:	In addition to measures, list the initiatives or activities you will undertake to achieve the goal.

Utilize this chart of Action Words to help enable you to build impactful goals.

Note that this list does not include verbs like "improve," "reduce," or "increase", for example, "Improve customer service" or "reduce cost". Verbs such as these imply the direction that you want a result to move, but do not provide a deep explanation of the action that you will take to accomplish this change.

Remember, the "S" - Specific - of a SMART goal should reflect your role and contribution.

"S" Action Word may include:				
Administer	Coordinate	Create		
Develop	Direct	Dispatch		
Establish	Evaluate	Generate		
Implement	Maintain	Manage		
Oversee	Plan	Process		
Produce	Provide	Reconcile		
Supervise	Support	Transition		
Update	Upgrade	Write		

# **Sample Goals**

(Strategic Priority)

Below is an example of a goal that is not good and how you can make it stronger. Use this information to help create well written, clear goals.

#### Example 1: **NOT A GOOD GOAL** Goal Run 4 webinars with increased attendance and learning **Description Measures** Not a clearly defined goal Increase attendance Increase training knowledge No measures/KPI's No initiatives Category F25 Performance Goals No tie to OLG's Truths **Due Date** March 31, 2025 **Organization Alignment** Fun, inclusive and performance culture

Example 2: STII	L NOT GREAT	
Goal	Plan and execute 4 customer experience education webinars that inspire strong attendance and demonstrated understanding of the material	
Description	<ul> <li>Measures</li> <li>25+ attendees each session</li> <li>Minimum of 95% scores on post-training testing</li> </ul>	
Category  Due Date	F25 Performance Goals  March 31, 2025  Clearly defined goal  Specific measures	
Organization Alignment (Strategic Priority)	Fun, inclusive and performance culture  * No initiatives  No tie to OLG's Truths	

Example 3: A G	OOD GOAL
Goal	Plan and execute 4 customer experience education webinars that inspire strong attendance and demonstrated understanding of the material
Description	<ul> <li>Measures         <ul> <li>25+ attendees each session</li> <li>Minimum of 95% scores on post-training testing</li> </ul> </li> <li>Key Initiatives         <ul> <li>Create a detailed project plan for development and implementation</li> <li>Develop webinars using an inclusive lens</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collaborate with lottery, Comms and HRBP's for training timing, learning objectives and post training testing material</li> </ul>
Category  Due Date	F25 Performance Goals  March 31, 2025  Clearly defined goal Specific measures
Organization Alignment (Strategic Priority)	Fun, inclusive and performance culture  Clear initiatives  Tie to OLG's Truths. The reference in blue, inclusive and collaboration are activities that embody the
	Truths, Celebrate our Difference and Play as one team