Why is Open Government Important for the Government of Canada?

Open Government:

- o Advances the GC's accountability and democratic reform agendas;

- o Generates economic value for Canadians ;

- o Supports the Digital Canada 150, leading by example to adopt new technologies to better serve Canadians;

- o Provides a catalyst to innovations in science and technology;

- o Supports strategic alignment between the federal government and provincial, territorial, and municipal governments in Canada;

- o Supports strategic alignment of Canada with key partner countries (UK, Australia, USA, Brazil, etc.); and

- o Builds trust and credibility between Canadians and their government.

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Open Government Partnership

o The Open Government Partnership (OGP) was launched in 2011 as a multilateral initiative led by the US and Brazil.

o Aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

o The OGP is overseen by a multi-stakeholder, international Steering Committee comprised of government and civil society representatives.

o Currently, Mexico is the lead government chair of the OGP Steering Committee, and South Africa is the government co-chair.

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Current Open Government Activities

Canada and the Open Government Partnership

In March 2011, the Government of Canada announced its Open Government initiative

On April 17, 2012, Canada joined the international Open Government Partnership (OGP), presented its first **Action Plan on Open Government,** and endorsed the OGP's four core open government principles:

1. Increasing the **availability of information** about government activities;

2. Supporting **citizen participation**;

3. Implementing the highest standards of **professional integrity** throughout our administrations; and

4. Increasing access to **new technologies** for openness and accountability.

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Current Open Government Activities

Canada's International Leadership on Open Government

G8 Open Data Charter
In June 2013, the Prime Minister formally adopted the G8 Open Data Charter.

G8 Open Data Charter
– Canada's Action Plan –

OGP Open Data Working Group
Co-chaired by Canada and the Web Foundation, this working group was launched in October 2013 to support the open data activities of OGP member countries.

International Open Data Conference
Hosted by IDRC, Government of Canada, and the World Bank, the IODC took place May 28-29, 2015 in Ottawa.

International Open Data Charter
Formally launched in September 2015, Open Data Charter articulates global open data principles and best practices.

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Current Open Government Activities

Canada's Domestic Leadership on Open Government

Canadian Open Data Experience (CODE) 2015

- 48-hour national hackathon that challenges participants to develop applications using federal open datasets on open.canada.ca.
- CODE 2015 was held in February and drew over 1,300 participants and 125 apps submitted
- CODE 2015 encouraged use of data from multiple jurisdictions, and comprised 10 hubs in addition to virtual participants across the country

CANADIAN OPEN DATA EXPERIENCE
LARGEST HACKATHON IN CANADIAN HISTORY

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CODE EDOC

Current Open Government Activities

Developing Canada's Action Plan on Open Government

- As part of its commitments under the OGP, Canada published its first Action Plan on Open Government in April 2012.

- Implementation of Canada's Action Plan 1.0 was subject to an independent review, which included key recommendations for:
  - Increased public consultation;
  - More specific language to define commitments;
  - More ambitious commitments, with timelines and measureable targets; and
  - More focus on Open Government, not just Open Data;

- The launch of **Canada's Action Plan on Open Government 2014-16** was announced on November 6, 2014.

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Developing Canada's Action Plan 2014-16

Consultation on Action Plan 2014-16

- Action Plan 2014-16 was developed through consultation with citizens, civil society, other levels of government, and the private sector.
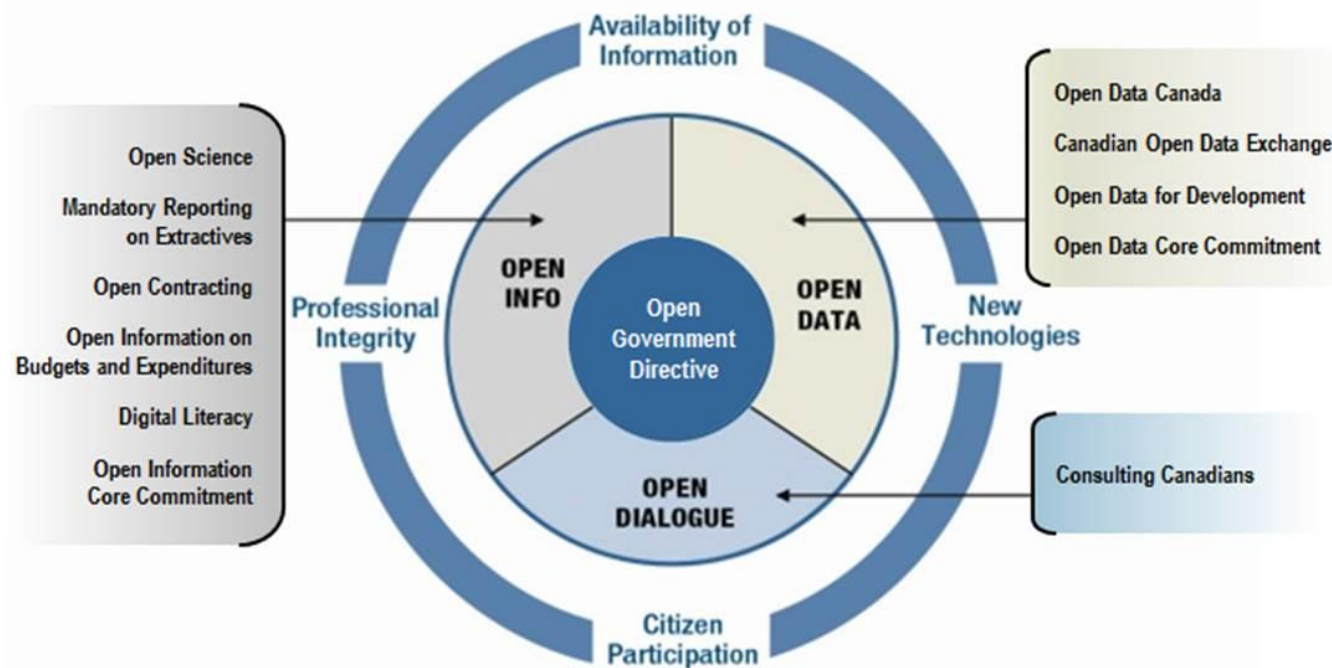
Several key themes emerged:

- Improving innovation and data literacy

- Increasing citizen engagement

- Ensuring data availability and quality

- Supporting collaboration

- Modernizing Access to Information

- Promoting transparency

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Action Plan 2014-16

Canada's second Action Plan on Open Government consists of twelve commitments that will advance open government principles in Canada over the next two years along three streams of activity: open data, open information, and open dialogue.

Action Plan 2014-16

Directive on Open Government

The Government of Canada has issued the Directive on Open Government, a mandatory policy requiring federal government departments and agencies to maximize the release of data and information of business value. Eligible data and information will be released in standardized, open formats, free of charge, and without restrictions on reuse.

The policy includes additional requirements for:

- Ensuring that data and information is published in accessible and open formats via GC open government websites under an open and unrestrictive licence;

- Publishing inventories of departmental data and information holdings; and

- Publishing Open Government Implementation Plans which describe the actions to be undertaken to identify data and information for release.

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Action Plan 2014-16

Directive on Open Government – Five-Year Implementation Plan

Departments will be required to meet specific milestones during a phased implementation:

- o **Year 1:** Release of datasets begins, begin development of information and data inventories and departmental Open Government Implementation Plan (OGIP);
- o **Year 2:** Publication of OGIP, data inventories completed, continued development of information inventories;
- o **Year 3:** Continued release of data and information and development of information inventories;
- o **Year 4:** All releasable data available on open.canada.ca; and
- o **Year 5:** Information inventories completed, and release of new information and data is ongoing.

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Action Plan 2014-16

Open Data Commitments

1. **Open Data Canada:** Work with provinces, territories, and municipalities to break down barriers to integrated, pan-Canadian open data services through the establishment of common principles, standards, licensing across all levels of government.

2. **Canadian Open Data Exchange:** Establish an open data institute to support collaboration among the private sector, academia, and government to promote the commercialization of open data.

3. **Open Data for International Development:** Work together with developing countries to harness the potential of open data to enhance accountability, and create new economic opportunities, through a range of outreach, research, information sharing, and collaboration-based activities.

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Action Plan 2014-16

Open Data Commitments (cont'd)

4. **Open Data Core Commitment**
   o Open Government Licence
   o Public consultations with Canadians and civil society organizations in support of the prioritization of open data releases
   o Launch of a new government-wide Open Government portal (open.canada.ca)
   o Expand and deliver Canadian Open Data Experience (CODE), the premier national open data competition
   o Consolidate the management of federal geospatial data across the Government of Canada
   o Broaden adoption of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard in the Government of Canada

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Action Plan 2014-16

Open Information Commitments

1. **Open Science**: Maximize access to federally funded scientific research.

2. **Mandatory Reporting on Extractives:** Introduce and implement legislation on mandatory reporting standards for the extractive sector.

3. **Open Contracting:** Coordinate single-window access to a broad range of open contracting information from across federal departments.

4. **Open Information on Budgets and Expenditures:** Publish expanded information and data on federal spending to help Canadians understand, and hold government accountable for, the use of public monies

5. **Digital Literacy:** Support the development of tools, training resources, and other initiatives to help Canadians acquire the essential skills needed to access, understand, and use digital information and new technologies

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Action Plan 2014-16

Open Information Commitments (cont'd)

6. **Open Information Core Commitment**

    o Modernize the administration of **Access to Information (ATI)** services across the federal government

    o Develop and launch **a virtual library** on the new open government portal.

    o Improve the management and accessibility of government records through the **roll-out of GCDOCS**

    o Increase Canadians' access to federal records by **removing access restrictions on archived federal documents** held by Library and Archives Canada

    o Develop and pilot a single online discovery and access platform for **federal science library** services and collections

    o Provide consolidated, searchable **access to regulatory information** from federal departments and agencies

    o Improve access to all online GC information through the new **Canada.ca** website

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Action Plan 2014-16

Open Dialogue Commitments

o **Consulting Canadians**:

- o Improve the existing **Consulting with Canadians website** to facilitate easier access to information on federal consultation activities for citizens
- o Develop and launch a new **government-wide consultation portal** to promote opportunities for public participation, host online consultations, and share findings from completed consultations;
- o **Expand the use of social media** across government
- o Develop a **set of principles and standards** for public consultations
- o Conduct **targeted consultations** on open government themes with key groups in Canada (e.g., youth, Aboriginal populations).

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Open.Canada.ca

Open.Canada.ca provides direct access to the GC's Open Government activities.

One-stop access to the
Government
of Canada's searchable **open
data** and **open information** to
support **reuse** and
transparency goals

open.canada.ca
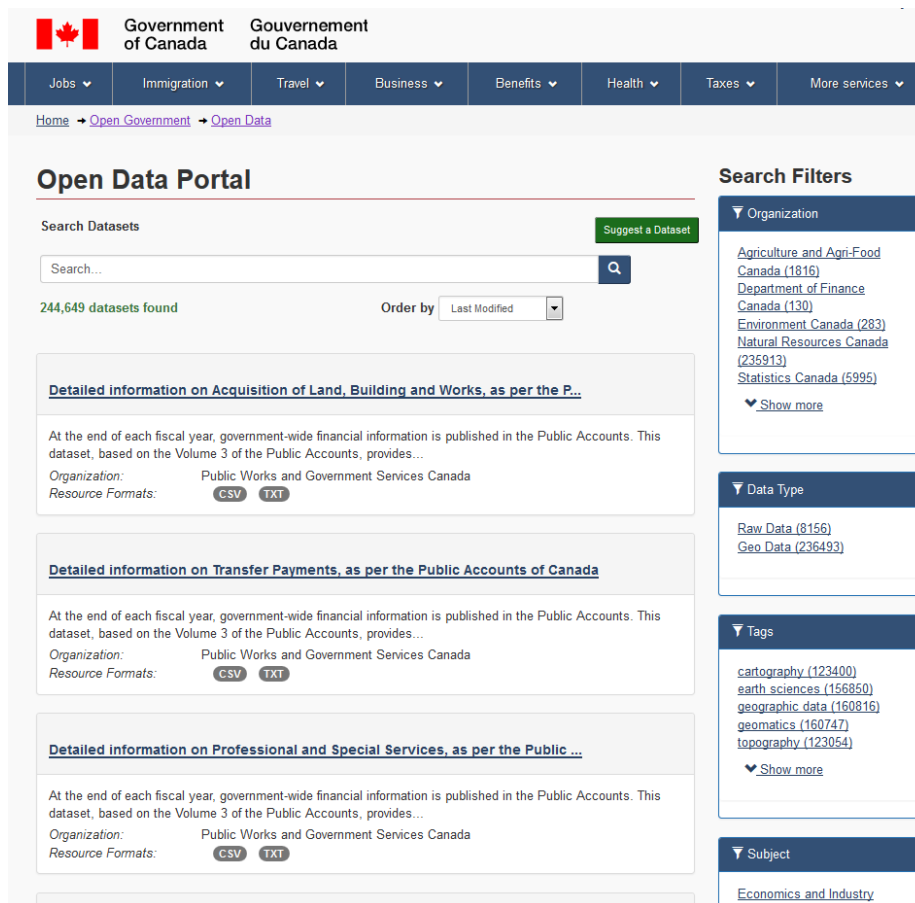
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Open Data Portal

Currently includes:

- Almost 250,000 datasets from over 40 departments and agencies

- Improved search

- Developers corner to provide instruction and advice for open data users

Moving forward we want:

- More data

- Better quality data

- More open formats

OG Value to Government

- **Improved access to information for decision-making**
  - Reduces amount of time government workers spend searching for information (currently 19%)

- **Service rationalization cost reduction**
  - Open.canada.ca provides a single window for all federal open data instead of hosting 200+ individual sites, as well as consultations, open contracting, etc.

- **ATIP volume reduction**
  - Proactive disclosure should help reduce the volume of ATIP requests

- **Spurs economic growth**
  - McKinsey expects $1.8 trillion in productivity growth in North America from open data
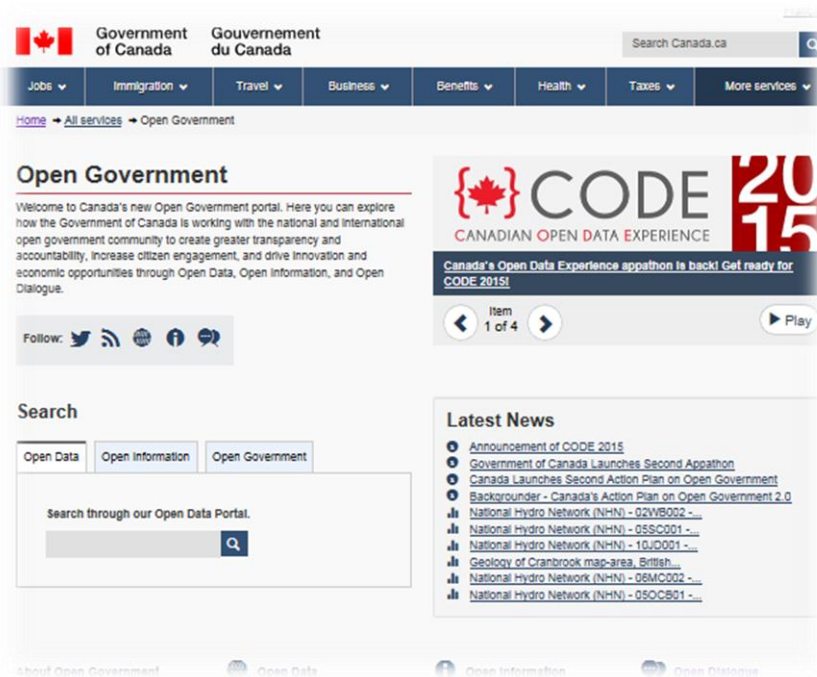
Your Role

Every GC employee has the power to make government more open to Canadians

- Everyone in this room a data collector – you might even be a data provider
    - Work with your peers to identify and publish datasets
    - Use, reuse and share data

- Engage with Canadians
    - Respond thoughtfully to questions and requests from the public
    - Consider how public consultations could become part of your policy development process

- Think "open by default"
    - Instead of asking why information and data should be open, ask whether there is any strong reason **not** to make it open. If not, do what you can to make sure Canadians can access the information easily and effectively.

- Submit blogs to open.canada.ca talking about openness initiatives in your department

For More Information

Visit **open.canada.ca** for the latest updates on the Government of Canada's open government activities.

Any comments or questions should be addressed to:
open-ouvert@tbs-sct.gc.ca