Open.Canada.ca : Update and Next Steps

Open Government
Chief Information Officer Branch
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
What is Open Government?

- **Open Government** is about greater *openness and accountability*, strengthening *democracy* and *citizen participation*, and driving innovation and economic opportunities for all Canadians

  - ✓ A key Government of Canada priority
  - ✓ A recognized international movement
  - ✓ An opportunity for public servants to more effectively deliver the programs and services Canadians want and expect

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**Open Government has a critical role to play in a changing digital landscape**

- Data and information are the new currency; government transparency is an expectation.
- Citizens’ trust in government is low; 46% of Canadians trust government institutions.
- Anti-establishment movements growing; proliferation of fake news world-wide.
- Private sector actors are creating new products and services for Canadians; Government has fallen behind.
## History of Open Government in Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>- <em>Access to Information Act</em>, and <em>Privacy Act</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>- Open data portal, data.gc.ca, in March 2011</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>- Canada joins Open Government Partnership (OGP); 1st Plan</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>- <em>Directive on Open Government</em>; new online portal; 2nd Plan</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>- Mandate letters published</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>- Ontario joins first OGP sub-national cohort; OG initiatives in 50+ cities</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>- Canada elected to OGP Steering Committee; 2017-19 co-chair</td>
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Migration of open.Canada.ca

- Open.Canada.ca has been managed by Statistics Canada since 2012 via an MOU
- Now, open.Canada.ca will be hosted in an Azure Cloud and managed by TBS
- Update to Drupal 8
- Goal: Architecture that is scalable and adaptable to the growing requirements for open.canada.ca,
  - Create well defined architectures, with standardized technology stacks and managed roadmaps
  - Reduce develop and maintenance costs,
  - Leverage and support collaboration with open source community
Open Data Inventory

- Deliverable of Directive on Open Government, Ministerial Mandate Letter Commitments
- Completed by 60% of Departments
- 1500 new datasets were identified
- Departments established tighter governance processes

12 000 Total datasets inventoried
3 000 ineligible for release
9 000 eligible for release
1500 already released
7500 already released

NEW datasets that can potentially be released on open.canada.ca
Open Maps

• Open Maps provides access to the Government of Canada’s geospatial information.
• Users can combine, visualize, and analyze geospatial data and collaborate with other Canadians.
• Currently we have over 700 Mapable datasets
CKAN 2.5 – Open Government Registry

- Update to our CKAN instance – Open Government Registry
- Code available on Github
- Major contributions to our international partners
- Integrated Search for Open Data and Open Information
- Open Government Metadata Application Profile
- Standardize data – Proactive Disclosure and ATI Summaries
Open by Default

Current Situation

• People outside government have a variety of ways to access government data and information (e.g., open data, open information, ATI, proactive disclosure)...
  ... but mostly when that **data and information is “ready” and official**
• The GC internal information management system isn’t connected to the public-facing portal

Proposed Solution

• Explore a technical way to **allow citizens access to working documents**
• Create an option for public officials to post documents for **sharing, re-use, and collaboration**
• Create a **straight line from document creation to public sharing**
Open by Default

- Pilot ‘Open by Default’ across the Government of Canada
- Provide a public access to working documents stored in GCDocs
- 4 Pilot Departments: Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Heritage and Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Agile Procurement Pilot – CFP for improve ‘usability’
• Do-it Yourself Toolkit – developed by OpenNorth
• Guidelines on Releasing Data and Information
  • Data Standards
  • Metadata Application Profile
• Information Management Rules – Retention and Disposition
• Official Languages
• Accessibility
• Data Governance
• Security and Privacy
• Prioritization
Next steps
Through December 2018
What we are going to do

1. Open by Default – Phase 2 (April 2018+)
   - Move from Pilot to Operational, enable automation
   - Agile Procurement - Accessibility

2. Update / Improve / Stabilize Architecture (ongoing)
   - Review architecture to identify areas for improvements
   - Simplify workflows
   - Tighten architecture to improve user experience

3. Bill C-58, Access to Information Amendments (Summer 2018)
   - Increase scope of organizations required to publish certain types of information
   - Increase in type of information that is mandatory to publish

4. Service Level Agreements (As soon as possible)
   - Develop SLA between TBS and Departments
   - Develop SLA between departments and public
What we are going to do

5. Open Data Federation – Pilot (June 2018)
- Pilot with Government of Alberta and/or British Columbia
- Develop process to onboard new jurisdictions

6. Visualizations (Summer 2018)
- Showcase visualizations on open.Canada.ca
- Develop ‘open source tools to support departments with developing their own

7. CKAN as a Service (As soon as possible)
- Create complete documentation
- Develop ‘toolkit’ for other departments to leverage CKAN instance

8. Open Information Inventory (October 2018)
- Directive on Open Government Deliverable
- Publish on open.Canada.ca
- Begin prioritizing the publication of open information
Canada’s Action Plans on Open Government
Overview: National Action Plans on Open Government

• Released every two years; contain commitments and milestones that give structure to the GC’s collective action; at the core of OGP model.

• From data to plan, how we create action plans:

  - Engagement
  - Analysis
  - Partnerships
  - Plan
How we are engaging Canadians

LISTENING, RESPONDING & LEARNING

OPEN GOV PLAN DEVELOPMENT
Starting in Oct 2017

IMPLEMENTING
Oct 2017 – Mar 2018

FINALIZING
June 2018

ITERATIVE & RESPONSIVE

DRAFTING
Apr – May 2018

SHAPING
Jun 2018

REVIEWING
Aug 2018 – June 2020
What We’re Hearing

Question: Which statements best describe your interest in open government?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I support open government as a tool to make democracy stronger</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am looking for opportunities to make society better</td>
<td>52%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3,371</td>
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<td>I’m interested in learning more and maybe getting involved</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<td>2,417</td>
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<td>I am looking for opportunities to hold government accountable</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,342</td>
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<td>I like to shift through data and information to find answers and insights</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,832</td>
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<td>I’m new to open government and curious</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<td>1,825</td>
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<td>I provide feedback to the government only when I am asked about an issue I care</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,337</td>
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<td>I build collections of data and information around a particular topic</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>592</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am looking for opportunities to enhance an existing business</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>587</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am looking for opportunities to use open data to start a new business</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>557</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am not interested in open government actually</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>248</td>
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<tr>
<td>I prefer not answer this question</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>380</td>
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Total respondents: 6,524
Recurring feedback themes

Context is key

• Data/info availability isn’t necessarily findability or understandability; a top need has been “Finding the right person to talk to”

• Where a few years back the call was for A) all data and B) raw data so people can analyze from scratch, we’re hearing more about data quality and providing context, narratives and suggestions

• We’ve heard repeated calls for closing the distance between data/information consumers and collectors/curators: we need to move from engagement on “data and information” to theme-by-theme engagement on domains of data and information
Recurring feedback themes

- The question of government trust and legitimacy; people are worried about Canada mirroring perceived trends in democratic decline
- Sustained calls for transparency of decision making & influence
- User base of open.canada.ca information and data is shifting: more business intelligence and data analytics users who want real-time, API-enabled feeds
- FPTM collaboration and standards has been a common theme both from partners in other jurisdictions and stakeholders from small business and civil society
- We’re reaching a broader community now, so **digital content, findability**, and **service ease** has been raised in every conversation to date
Next steps

• Release a draft plan on open.canada.ca for community feedback
  – Sign up for our mailing list to hear when that happens
• Final plan in summer 2018
• Renewed workplan for improving the data and information ecosystem in the Government of Canada
Questions?

Contact Information

Mark Levene  
Senior Advisor, Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch  
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat / Government of Canada  
Mark.Levene@tbs-sct.gc.ca