

Open Data for Results

DRAFT COMMITMENT FOR CANADA'S 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON OPEN GOVERNMENT (2022-2024)

Problem to be addressed

Problem statement: People in Canada raised the need to apply transparency, accountability and citizen participation principles and tools to open data to drive results for citizens.

Background: Mindsets around open data have matured amongst practitioners and experts. While the end state is still open by default where everything that can be released is released, we need to start by focusing on releasing timely, relevant and high-quality data that has the highest potential for impact. Open Data for Results is key to prioritize publicly demanded, high-value data and information, to raise awareness of the value of the data and to mature the management of open data within the Government of Canada.

For additional information on what we heard from Canadians and Civil Society, as well as on international best practices, please read this thematic backgrounder.

Commitment Title

Open Data for Resultsⁱ

Lead Department(s)ⁱⁱ

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
Employment and Social Development Canada
Statistics Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Indigenous Services Canada
Health Canada
International Research Development Centre
Women and Gender Equality Canada

Milestones and Indicators

1. Milestone: Open and strategic management of data and information

Indicators

- 1.1. Develop a roadmap identifying and prioritizing federal data standards (by end of 2022).
- 1.2. Createⁱⁱⁱ a protocol for the development and management of federal data standards (by 2023)

- 1.3. Establish a data and information governance framework to support a holistic approach to governance and inform direction and decision-making on federal data and information initiatives (by end of 2022)
- 1.4. Define a federal data quality^{iv} framework to build a common understanding of data quality and harmonize approaches to optimizing the quality of data assets in the Government of Canada (by summer 2023)
- 1.5. Develop a new standard for systems that manage information and data in the Government of Canada, anchored in principles and business outcomes, to provide an enterprise approach for all federal records management and business systems (by end of 2022)
- 1.6. Develop an assessment and reporting^v framework for the standard for systems that manage information and data in the Government of Canada^{vi} (by end of 2022)

2. Milestone: Build an open government and open data ecosystem^{vii}

Indicators

- 2.1. As part of the development of an Open Government Strategy, include a robust^{viii} open data pillar^{ix} (by Spring 2022)
- 2.2. Establish an internal and external stakeholder open data advisory working group to help inform open data priorities, help inform the establishment of public reporting on open data release progress, identify open data users and experts, and report publicly on the work and deliberations of the working group and impact of open data (by 2023)
- 2.3. As part of the Open Government Strategy and open data pillar, prioritize the development of a dedicated open data plan to expand on key activities the Government of Canada will undertake (by^x end of 2022).
- 2.4. Consult on and develop service standards for prioritizing and releasing open data and using the portal as part of the open data plan (by 2023)
- 2.5. Develop maturity^{xi} models for open data (by end of 2022)
- 2.6. Equip departments with criteria and a template so they can develop Implementation Plans to align themselves to the Strategy and maturity models to optimize their efforts for growth, as well as self-assessment and annual reporting tools to monitor progress and outcomes (by summer 2023)
- 2.7. Expand the federated open data search to include open data from all thirteen jurisdictions thereby providing Canadians with access^{xii} to open and discoverable data in one place (by March 2023)
- 2.8. Working with internal and external data tables, create a data sharing policy that would facilitate data sharing with Indigenous governments and organizations and their partners, while addressing key data governance issues such as protecting the confidentiality of community-level information
- 2.9. Develop and test an infrastructure, with supporting governance, to facilitate uptake of citizen science in a health research context [this may include, but is not limited to, research in environmental health (e.g., air, water, chemicals, radiation), COVID-19, or other health-related topics]
- 2.10 Support the Global Data Barometer and disclose comparative analysis on data in 100+ countries (by Spring 2022)

- 2.11 Increase the number of new women's rights groups engaged in open government practices and data production consultations around the world (at least 15) (by October 2022)
- 2.12 Support organizations in at least 15 OGP countries in developing regions to advance open, fair and efficient use of data to strengthen their democracies (by December 2022)
- 2.13 Produce a series of synthesis reports, case studies and in-person events that support the global open data community, including the work with the Government of Kenya to co-host the International Open Data Conference (by June 2023)
- 2.14 Plan and develop a central online hub to facilitate public access to GBA Plus data, information and resources, and to provide a space for learning and participation (By December 2023)

3. Milestone: A roadmap toward a more inclusive^{xiii} barrier-free^{xiv} Canada

Indicators

- 3.1. Disaggregated Data Action Plan Developmental Phase: Develop a collection strategy for major surveys, survey design for new surveys, terms and conditions for collaborations with partners on the acquisition of new data, establishment and promotion of statistical standards for disaggregated data, exploration of existing data sources, start of release of new data and new indicators (by March^{xv} 2022)
- 3.2. Disaggregated Data Action Plan Implementation Phase I: Launch of enhanced surveys, a collaborative analysis space, and an intersectional, population-level platform; further exploration of existing data sources and release of survey data, new indicators, and new analytical studies (by March 2023)
- 3.3. Disaggregated Data Action Plan Implementation Phase II: Continued release of new indicators, survey data, and analyses; enhancement of the portal of the Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics, enhanced data integration (start date April 2023; by March 2024)
- 3.4. Disaggregated Data Action Plan Monitoring Phase: Continued release of new indicators, survey data, and analyses; completion of the evaluation framework; course correction (by March 2025)
- 3.5. Disaggregated Data Action Plan Evaluation Phase: Continued release of new indicators, survey data, and analyses; evaluation report and recommendations for ongoing data collection and dissemination (by March 2026)
- 3.6. Disaggregated Data Action Plan Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Phase: Continued release of new indicators, survey data, and analyses; monitoring of data gaps and emerging needs that should be covered, adherence to diversity data standards (in collaboration with TBS where appropriate) at the agency and all levels of government, flow of data to the agency and statistics from the agency and use of statistics in policymaking (ongoing)
- 3.7. 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability data collection (by Sept 2022)
- 3.8. 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability data initial results available (by October 2023)
- 3.9. Disability screening questions included in future cycles of the General Social Survey, Canadian Income Survey, and Indigenous Peoples Survey (ongoing)

- 3.10. 2017 Canadian Survey on Disabilities data integrated with Canada Recovery Benefits data accessible in Federal Research Data Centre (ongoing)
- 3.11. First set of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Sustainable Development Goals indicators available (by Sept. 2023)
- 3.12. Develop a methodology to better understand Chronic Wasting Disease in Canada (CWD) (by summer 2022)
- 3.13. Development of a new survey on children with disabilities (by fall 2023)
- 3.14. Launch of the Accessibility Statistics Data Hub in June 2021, and ongoing updates (ongoing)
- 3.15. Analyze and publish the data on the Survey on Accessibility in Federal Sector Organizations (SAFSO) (by March 2022)
- 3.16. Publish the 2019-20 public opinion research on the Accessibility Statistics Data Hub (by March 2022)
- 3.17. Conduct additional public opinion research to address further data gaps (by December 2022)
- 3.18. Publish additional Canada Pension Plan Disability datasets on the [Open Government Portal](#) (by December 2023)

ⁱ Posted by jonkhan on 02/07/2022 at 11:01am

This document doesn't mention court data--a key source of pre-trial, trial, and post-trial data for both criminal and civil justice issues.

Currently, it's not aggregated, and neither is case law. The Federal government could lead efforts to standardize and aggregate provincial level data to uncover some basic stats we don't currently know (like how many people plead guilty in Canada each year).

ⁱⁱ Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:23pm

While I appreciate that there is another action item related to climate, I believe there is value in having Environment and Climate Change Canada at this table.

ⁱⁱⁱ Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:29pm

When I see terms like roadmap and protocol for development of standards, I get a little concerned about the potential for re-inventing the wheel. We have a Standards Council of Canada, we have lots of data standards developed by CIO Strategy Council, we have civil society and other NGOs that have developed standards - these need to be inventoried and leveraged as an early action.

^{iv} Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:31pm

Again, significant work has been done on data quality (e.g. Stats Can and NRCan) and this needs to be leveraged for a "framework"

Reply by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 2:48pm

Agree on gathering best practices here to input for a data quality framework. DFO has also developed a Minimum Metadata profile and data assets are currently being tested.

^v Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:34pm

Suggest the "assessment and reporting" be done relative to the holistic data governance approach to all federal data.

^{vi} Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 2:58pm

Suggest adding "to inform decision making" as part of this statement.

^{vii} Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:05pm

This milestone should be more concisely defined. The term "ecosystem" is not very clear. Perhaps select a different word or consider adding a definition.

One item missing here is a reference to communication between GOC and capacity for developing partnerships with citizens and external clients, and more specific objectives and benefits of open data. This could also include aspects of data collection, using and res-use of data, aligning with data responsibilities, and mitigation of risks for the misuse of data.

^{viii} Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:41pm

Having some difficulty with this as it seems to me pillars were established in the first OGP plan - why are we reinventing the wheel ... seems a little redundant

^{ix} Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:10pm

This Pillar and what it refers to should be better defined. For example, does it include better connecting GOC departments and capacity for OD? If not, I suggest this be considered. Resources vary considerably between departments and is a lot of foundational work still to be done in this area.

^x Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:13pm

Alongside this plan, should be a platform and activities to improve external general and targeted communication about the activities being done. Clear definitions and language should be selected, with consideration of approaches to diverse groups.

^{xi} Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:42pm

Maturity models already exist - adopt or adapt those.

^{xii} Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 9:49pm

Access to open data to only the senior levels of government is not what I'd consider a national federated data environment - there are 5,000+ local govts!

^{xiii} Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:21pm

I think this milestone could be strengthened by adding and defining a broader concept of accessibility with respect to open data.

^{xiv} Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 3:19pm

Is "barrier-free" the most appropriate term here? Or even achievable? I wonder if better to look at how we go about addressing bias at each stage of the data lifecycle, and identifying the risks and opportunities at each stage. This would be helpful to address meaningfully where challenges exist to inclusiveness and identify mitigations which can also be openly shared.

^{xv} Posted by jury.konga on 02/16/2022 at 10:01pm

It concerns me when I see a delivery date before the completion of the plan itself. Please explain how this can happen?