

JUSTICE

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 address the access to justice crisis in this country and promote just outcomes for all.

Background: This past year shone a light on the importance of justice, anti-racism and anti-discrimination efforts, which were brought to the forefront through international movements. We also saw side effects of the pandemic, which kindled other access to justice issues, such as legal problems related to detention, employment, housing and debt. Access to Justice and Open Justice are key to helping all individuals, communities, civil society organizations, and governments across the country have access to the data, information and services they need to identify and effectively resolve their legal problems. This ensures a people-centred approach to justice which works to advance equality, legal empowerment, and a better understanding of the legal needs of all the people of Canada, including Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and other traditionally underserved populations.

For additional information on what we heard from Canadians and Civil Society, as well as on international best practices, please read this thematic backgrounderⁱ. For additional information on the work Justice Canada is undertaking to advance access to justice, please see the resources available on the [Access to Justice website](#) and the [State of the Criminal Justice System Report and Dashboard](#).

COMMITMENT TITLE

Justice

LEAD DEPARTMENT(S)

1. Justice Canada
2. Royal Canadian Mounted Police
3. International Development Research Centre

MILESTONES AND INDICATORS

1. Milestoneⁱⁱ: Collecting and sharing data, including disaggregated data

Indicators

- 1.1. **Summit for Democracy** - Completion of [Canadian Legal Problems Survey](#) (CLPS) and sharing of results, including Public Use Microdata File (PUMF) (by February 2022)

- 1.2. **Summit for Democracy** - Completion and sharing of findings of Qualitative Studies on LGBTQ2 populations, Black Canadians, persons with disabilities, immigrants and Indigenous peoples, to complement the CLPS quantitative data (spring 2022)
- 1.3. **Summit for Democracy** - Preparing and publishing [Legal Aid Reports](#) (annually)
- 1.4. **Summit for Democracy** - Updatingⁱⁱⁱ and maintaining the [State of the Criminal Justice System](#) Report and Dashboard (annually)
- 1.5. Collecting and releasing high value data related to various policing activities, workforce composition and more (by May 2023)
 - 1.5.1. Establish and release a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) inventory of data and information resources of business value
 - 1.5.2. Release, to the Government of Canada open data portal, identified and approved open RCMP datasets (ongoing)^{iv}

2. Milestone: Identifying and sharing promising practices

Indicators

- 2.1. **Summit for Democracy** - Collaboration with Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals ([CCAT](#)) to support delivery of workshops to better understand and promote good practices (by June 2022)
- 2.2. **Summit for Democracy** - Support development of Community Justice Centres as a promising practice (ongoing)
- 2.3. **Summit for Democracy** - Publish promising practices from evaluations, annual reports and Federal, Provincial, Territorial work, as appropriate^v (ongoing)

3. Milestone: Advancing Legal literacy and empowerment

Indicators

- 3.1. **Summit for Democracy** - Regularly update [Charterpedia](#) on the Justice website (ongoing)
- 3.2. **Summit for Democracy** - Publication of geo-spatial mapping of services funded by Indigenous Justice Program (ongoing)
- 3.3. **Summit for Democracy** - Release of a range of family law tools, including the following (by summer 2023):
 - 3.3.1. Five forthcoming^{vi} [online courses](#) on Bill C-78 (family violence, relocation, family dispute resolution and the duties of the parties, parenting and, interjurisdictional support)
 - 3.3.2. Online fact sheet on the Official Languages provisions in Bill C-78
 - 3.3.3. Online materials for legal professionals on the 1996 and 2007 Hague Conventions
 - 3.3.4. Online materials for professionals on the amendments to the Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act, particularly those relating to income disclosure
 - 3.3.5. A family violence tool for family law legal advisors
- 3.4. **Summit for Democracy** - Develop a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) tool, and accompanying online course on the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and how to use the CRIA tool (by fall 2021).
- 3.5. **Summit for Democracy** - Support for a network of legal information hubs providing free services to Official Language Minority Communities (ongoing).

- 3.6. **Summit for Democracy** - Communications activities to support legal literacy, including:
 - 3.6.1. Promotion of [Charter](#) anniversary and online resources each April.
 - 3.6.2. Public awareness of the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) and the proposed federal legislation.
 - 3.6.3. Updates to the [digital Braille version of the Criminal Code](#) and the release of accessible versions of legislation and/or related content.
 - 3.6.4. Accessible versions of Canada's medical assistance in dying ([MAID](#)) communications products.

4. Milestone: Fostering partnerships and collaboration to advance access to Justice

Indicators

- 4.1. **Summit for Democracy** - Work in concert with provincial and territorial partners (ongoing)
- 4.2. Participation on [OGP Coalition on Justice](#) (by spring 2022)
- 4.3. Collaboration with [Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters](#) (ongoing)
- 4.4. Fostering international partnerships including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ([OECD](#)) and [Pathfinders](#) (ongoing)
- 4.5. Support creation of a grassroots community of practice (CoP) and global learning agenda on legal empowerment, which documents promising practices and increases access to tools to advance legal empowerment (ongoing) [target: up to 15 case studies, minimum 10] (by June 2022)
- 4.6. Collect empirical evidence and conduct comparative analysis on innovative and effective approaches to community-based justice and legal empowerment, to address exclusion and injustices [target: 6 country case studies, minimum 3] (by June 2023)

5. Milestone: A multi-year roadmap for Open Government at the RCMP

Indicators

- 5.1. Develop an RCMP Open Government strategy with multi-year action plan (released publicly) (by March 2022)
- 5.2. Establish an Open Government Office with resources dedicated to the advancement of openness and transparency across the RCMP (ongoing)
- 5.3. Establish an RCMP Open Government Working Group comprised of key stakeholders across the RCMP to identify and release data and information as well as advance a culture of openness, transparency and accountability based on open government principles and practices. In addition, the RCMP will be an active participant in interdepartmental working groups/efforts around Justice and Justice related topics of transparency and Open Government (ongoing)
- 5.4. Establish an RCMP Multi-Stakeholder Forum (ex: non-governmental organizations, other government departments, private sector, academia, community representatives including Indigenous Peoples, LBGTQ2, youth, etc.) to help engage in discussions around priorities and areas of focus for openness and transparency in the RCMP (ongoing)

ⁱ Posted by EveGrebert on 02/04/2022 at 1:01pm

Link to thematic backgrounder: <https://letstalkopengov.ca/16360/widgets/71840/documents/60900> **note this link is no longer active**

ⁱⁱ Posted by Nicole Priddle on 02/18/2022 at 4:15pm

Citizens have more and more personal information shared and new ways to manage consent are needed as technology advances. Considering these needs and providing appropriate safety and protection to citizens is needed (e.g. seniors and other vulnerable groups). There are also a lot of platforms where data is being generated by users. People want to study the quality of the data and evaluate it, which may be an opportunity for Government to provide new services.

Partnerships are needed to obtain information from private companies. We need a better separation of public and private data and supportive policy and legislation, with consideration of ethical principles .

There is a Data Government Act being developed in the EU to manage data that will be used in the general interest which may be worthwhile to look into.

ⁱⁱⁱ Posted by michael on 02/07/2022 at 7:33pm

Is there more information about what this means? Is it a change in procedure?

^{iv} Posted by michael on 02/07/2022 at 7:34pm

I imagine all departments publishing open data is an existing commitment. could you clarify what change this references?

^v Posted by michael on 02/07/2022 at 7:35pm

Could you provide more information about this commitment? Especially the "as appropriate" part?

^{vi} Posted by michael on 02/07/2022 at 7:36pm

love the specifics!