**OGP Annual Summit Commitment Template**

It would be most helpful to us to have a brief description of all national commitments in the form below. This will ensure we accurately and clearly represent the commitment that your government had made in any final documents arising from the summit.

COUNTRY

|  |
| --- |
| Canada |

TITLE OF COMMITMENT

|  |
| --- |
| Open Data Canada |

DESCRIPTION (up to 200 words)

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| Open Data Canada is our government’s commitment to increase, integrate, and streamline access to open data across the three levels of government in Canada through common standards, licensing, and platforms. Our goal is to eliminate any barriers to realizing the full potential of Open Data in Canada. More specifically, this ambitious commitment seeks to harmonize and align a diverse range of open data activities happening at all levels of government across Canada, as well as to stimulate new ones, in order to facilitate unprecedented ease of access to comprehensive government data.  This is a very challenging prospect given that Canada is a decentralized federation in which government programs and services cut across multiple jurisdictions. Health, transportation, and agriculture are just a few examples of government activities that have municipal, provincial/territorial, and federal involvement.  Our consultations and engagements with civil society have reinforced how important it is that users be able to combine data from multiple jurisdictions in spite of the cross-jurisdictional challenges that stand in the way. These challenges include data ownership, search and discovery barriers, licensing, and significant differences across jurisdictions with regard to operational readiness and capacity.  The proposed initiative would work to break down the barriers to pan-Canadian open data through collaborative activities in five key areas: establishment of common principles, open data standards, common licensing, federated search, and user engagement and outreach. Work on these activities will be governed by a national steering committee with representation from all levels of government. The end result will provide unprecedented access, a “no wrong door approach”, to comprehensive open data to spur innovation, increase productivity, and ultimately improve the lives of Canadians. |