



Treasury Board of Canada
Secrétariat

Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor
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Canada

CANADA'S THIRD BIENNIAL PLAN TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP 2016-2018

Mid-term Self-assessment Report

September 2017



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Canada's Third Biennial Plan to the Open Government Partnership 2016-2018

Mid-term Self-assessment Report (September 2017)

1. Introduction and background

Canadians expect their government to be open, transparent and accountable. They also expect meaningful results delivered in a fair, efficient and responsive manner. The Government of Canada made clear commitments to rise to these expectations; within the federal government, every Minister's mandate letter reminds departments that "Government and its information should be open by default."

In an effort to make concrete progress towards a more open government based on citizen participation, the Government of Canada released its Third Biennial Plan to the Open Government Partnership in July 2016. The Plan was structured around four priority areas: open by default; fiscal transparency, innovation, prosperity and sustainable development; and engaging Canadians in the world. Each of the twenty-two commitments in the Plan reflects one of these priority areas to advance open government. The Plan is being implemented over a two year period between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018. At this mid-term point, the Government of Canada is reporting on what it has accomplished so far, for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

The Government of Canada has made good progress implementing commitments in the plan, but there is still a lot of work to do. This self-assessment report seeks to offer a frank self-assessment of our progress to date, but it is also an invitation to partners, citizens and public servants to be more involved and to help mainstream open government as a critical element of public policy in Canada.

The Government of Canada welcomes feedback on this report, on open government efforts, and on progress described in the new [dashboards](#) for each of the 22 commitments. The goal of the dashboards is to report more frequently on progress and encourage citizens to provide comments and suggestions at any point through the life-cycle of this two-year Open Government Plan.

2. National Action Plan process

Participation and co-creation when developing the National Action Plan

Canada's Third Biennial Plan to the Open Government Partnership was developed through extensive consultations over a three-month period with Canadians and with stakeholders in civil society, business, academia, and other sectors, seeking ideas and feedback on how government could become more open, accountable, and transparent.

To ensure that the Plan met the needs and expectations of Canadians and stakeholders, a variety of public consultation and engagement activities were undertaken. These activities were conducted in two main phases: an idea generation phase and a consultation on the draft Plan. During these two phases, ideas, comments, and feedback were collected through a number of different channels, both online and in-person.

In total, 1,451 individuals took part in the consultations, including 312 individuals who took part in in-person consultation events. These participants generated over 1,200 unique comments and ideas about open government in Canada. A detailed [What We Heard](#) report was developed and published on the results of the consultation and how the comments received were incorporated into the Plan.

Participation and co-creation when implementing, monitoring, and reporting a National Action Plan

In June 2017, [online dashboards](#) were created to publicly track Canada’s progress on its Third Biennial Plan. This approach provides an opportunity to adopt more continuous and rigorous tracking, facilitate stakeholder engagement, and help identify and address any issues early. In addition to identifying key indicators and targets for each of the 22 commitments, challenges have been posed to citizens with invitations to help address them. Comment boxes and contact information for each commitment are provided with the intent to enable increased engagement and involvement of stakeholders and citizens in the implementation of commitments.

3. IRM recommendations

In February 2016, the OGP’s Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) published its report on Canada’s progress in implementing its second Action Plan. This mid-term report provided key recommendations on areas to focus future open government activities including: reforming Access to Information legislation, establishing an active permanent dialogue mechanism, supporting the collection and analysis of additional Canadian data, increasing data quality and diversity, and developing and publicizing a clear policy on the preservation of digital material. The observations and recommendations of this independent assessment of Canada’s open government activities inspired many of the commitments in Canada’s Third Biennial Plan to the Open Government Partnership and have helped to make the plan more concrete and the open government activities more successful.

4. Implementation of National Action Plan commitments

The status of Canada’s implementation of its current Open Government Plan is summarized in the following table. Significant progress has been made, with 21 of the 22 commitments on schedule to complete all deliverables by the end of the Action Plan in June 2018.

Action Plan commitment	Overall status
OPEN BY DEFAULT	
1. Enhance access to information	On schedule
2. Streamline requests for personal information	On schedule
3. Expand and improve open data	On schedule
4. Provide and preserve open information	On schedule
5. Define an approach for measuring open government performance	On schedule
6. Develop open government skills across the federal public service	On schedule
7. Embed transparency requirements in the federal service strategy	On schedule
8. Enhance access to culture and heritage collections	On schedule

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 9. Enhance openness of information on government spending and procurement | On schedule |
| 10. Increase transparency of Budget and other Department of Finance information | Ahead of schedule |
| 11. Increase transparency of grants and contributions funding | On schedule |
| 12. Improve public information on Canadian corporations | On schedule |

INNOVATION, PROSPERITY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 13. Increase the availability and usability of geospatial data | On schedule |
| 14. Increase openness of federal science activities (open science) | On schedule |
| 15. Stimulate innovation through Canada's Open Data Exchange (ODX) | On schedule |
| 16. Align open data across Canada (Open Data Canada) | On schedule |
| 17. Implement the Extractives Sector Transparency Measures Act | On schedule |
| 18. Support openness and transparency initiatives around the world | On schedule |

ENGAGING CANADIANS IN THE WORLD

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 19. Engage civil society on open government | On schedule |
| 20. Enable open dialogue and open policy making | On schedule |
| 21. Promote open government globally | On schedule |
| 22. Engage Canadians to improve key Canada Revenue Agency Services | On schedule |

Commitment 1: Enhance access to information

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, working with Justice Canada and the Privy Council Office

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Canada was an early adopter of access to information legislation, first introducing the Access to Information Act in 1983. The Access to Information Act maintains openness and transparency by serving the important public interest of enabling public debate on the conduct of government institutions, in turn strengthening the accountability of the Government of Canada to Canadians. In recent years, the need to update the Act has been noted during open government consultations and by the Information Commissioner as well as other stakeholders. It has not been significantly updated since 1983.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will move forward on a first round of concrete proposals to improve the Access to Information Act, informed by the views of Parliament, the Information Commissioner, and consultations with Canadians, and will then undertake a full review of the Act by no later than 2018.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The Government's commitments to improve the Act in the near term include:

- Making government data and information open by default, in formats that are modern and easy to use;
- Eliminating all fees, except for the initial \$5 filing fee;
- Providing requestors with a written explanation when information cannot be released;
- Giving Government institutions and the Information Commissioner authority to decline to process requests that are frivolous or vexatious;
- Giving the Information Commissioner the power to order the release of government information;
- Ensuring that the Access to Information Act applies appropriately to the Prime Minister's and Ministers' Offices, as well as administrative institutions that support Parliament and the courts;
- Undertaking a mandatory legislative review of the Access to Information Act every five years; and
- Strengthening performance reporting on the Access to Information program.

To make early progress on these commitments, on May 5, 2016 the Government of Canada issued an Interim Directive on the Administration of the Access to Information Act. The Directive sends a strong message across federal institutions that government information belongs to the people it serves and should be open by default. It emphasizes that government information should be available to the public, except in very limited and specific situations when it must be protected for reasons such as privacy, confidentiality, and security. The Directive also directs federal officials to:

- waive all Access to Information fees apart from the \$5 filing fee; and
- release information in user-friendly formats (e.g. spreadsheets), whenever feasible.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency, civic participation, and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Seek input from Parliament, the Information Commissioner, stakeholders and through consultations with Canadians on how to revitalize access to information.
- b. Introduce legislation to move forward on improvements to the Access to Information Act.
- c. Once this first round of improvements has been implemented, undertake a full review of the Access to Information Act.

Expected result

Canadians will have timely access to government information. This will make government more accountable to Canadians and enhance democratic participation.

Description of results

- a. Feedback from a consultation on the Government of Canada's proposals to revitalize access to information was summarized in a [What We Heard report](#) published online on October 19, 2016. On October 17, 2016, the Government tabled its [response](#) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics' June 2016 [report](#).
- b. On June 19, 2017, the Government introduced legislation in the House of Commons to modernize the Access to Information Act, expand the scope of the law and make more government information open by default (see the [news release](#)). The Government's proposals would break new ground by:
 - i. Giving the Information Commissioner increased powers, including:
 - the ability to order the release of documents following an investigation of a complaint; and
 - the authority to give orders related to fees, access in the official language requested, format of release for accessibility purposes, time extensions and decisions by government institutions to decline to process requests.
 - ii. Creating new requirements for the proactive publication of a broad range of information. Requirements are extended to more than 240 government institutions, including the Prime Minister's and Ministers' offices, Members of Parliament and

Senators, as well as institutions that support Parliament and the courts.

- iii. Improving the way government information is provided to Canadians by allowing government institutions to work together to process requests more efficiently, and for the government institutions to provide written explanations when information is not disclosed to requesters.
 - iv. Giving government institutions the authority to decline to act on requests:
 - that are overly broad;
 - for which information is already available;
 - when responding would unreasonably interfere with the operations of a government institution; and
 - that are vexatious, made in bad faith or are an abuse of the right to make a request for the access of records.
- c. No action taken on this deliverable to date.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. N/A – completed
- b. N/A – completed
- c. The proposed amendments to the Access to Information Act will go through the various stages of the legislative process and must be approved by both Houses of Parliament to receive royal assent. Development of an implementation plan for the proposed amendments to the legislation has begun.

Bill C-58 (an Act to amend the Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts) proposes a review of the Access to Information Act every five years, with the first review to be initiated within one year of the legislation receiving royal assent.

Completion level

- a. Completed
- b. Completed
- c. Not started

Commitment 2: Streamline requests for personal information

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Canadians requesting personal information are faced with a process that's complicated and difficult to navigate. Transparency includes providing Canadians with timely access to their own personal information held by government.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will make it easier for Canadians to access their own personal information held by the federal government.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

To make it easier for Canadians to access government information, including their personal information, the Government will create a simple, central website where Canadians can submit requests to any government institution. This will be backed up with a 30-day guarantee for personal information requests: should a request take longer than 30 days to fulfill, it is proposed that the Government will provide a written explanation for the delay to the requester and to the Privacy Commissioner.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP value of transparency.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Develop a central website where Canadians can submit personal information requests to any government institution, with first phase of roll-out targeted for 2018.
- b. Implement a 30-day guarantee for requests for personal information, backed by a commitment to provide a written explanation to the requester and the Privacy Commissioner should a request take longer than 30 days to fulfill.

Expected result

Canadians will be able to use a central website to easily access their personal information held by the government backed by a 30-day guarantee for requests for personal information.

Description of results

- a. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has worked to identify business requirements for the website. Usability testing is completed on the current Access to Information and Privacy Online Pilot site.
- b. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has shared implementation options with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) and received feedback.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Next steps include continuing with the interaction design of the new Access to Information and Privacy Online Request service; building a prototype, testing it and adjusting as required. Progress is on track to deliver the first phase of roll-out by June 2018.
- b. The next steps are to finalize the approach and then implement it across approximately 240 institutions subject to the Privacy Act.

Completion level

- a. Limited
- b. Substantial

Commitment 3: Expand and improve open data

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat; Statistics Canada

Other actors involved: Contributing Government of Canada departments

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Considerable data can often be trapped inside government silos. Meanwhile, open data has the potential to transform how government officials make decisions and how citizens interact with their government. By providing a range of quality open data from reliable sources, Canada supports informed participation and engagement in the development and delivery of programs, services, and policies by citizens and government workers alike. The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that its data is open by default. Data must be discoverable, accessible, and reusable without restriction so as to enhance transparency, enable better services to Canadians, facilitate innovation, and inform public participation.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will increase the quality and visibility of federal data holdings and set measurable targets for the release of open data over the next five years.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Over the last five years, federal departments and agencies have established a good foundation of available open data. The Treasury Board Secretariat's current Directive on Open Government requires federal departments to maximize the release of eligible government data and publish Open Government Implementation Plans outlining how they would implement the Directive's requirements. The current work is seeking to "automate" the opening of data, and ingrain the practice throughout all processes.

The next step is about increasing the diversity, timeliness, and quality of data released, to maximize the potential impact of the reuse of the Government's data by Canadians. As an example, Statistics Canada is working on increasing access to high-quality statistical information in open formats, including

releasing all 2016 Census data a full 10 months sooner than the 2011 Census. Steps are also being taken to ensure the data is well understood by Canadians.

In addition, a key focus is being placed on streamlining and improving the process by which departments proactively disclose information on government spending and human resources online. Finally, the Government of Canada is continuing to take advantage of opportunities to share best practices and work with data experts both nationally and internationally to improve its own open data services and support the release of high quality data.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP value of transparency.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Develop and publish departmental inventories of federal data, as required by the Directive on Open Government, to support collaboration with the public on setting priorities for the release of open data.
- b. Set a baseline for the total volume of open data to be released over time and establish departmental targets for the publication of releasable data over the next five years:
 - Publish departmental targets and progress on departments' release of open data.
- c. Develop and refine guidance to help federal departments and agencies set priorities for the release of high-value open data and understand the specific circumstances under which data cannot be released for privacy, security, and/or confidentiality reasons:
 - Establish data quality standards for open data;
 - Provide guidance on engaging with key communities in Canada (e.g., First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, etc.) to better understand their needs when setting priorities for the release of open data;
 - Develop metadata standards to enhance data interoperability and discoverability; and
 - Develop guidance on the anonymization of datasets.
- d. Provide access to high-quality, open statistical data and information from Statistics Canada, free of charge, in machine-readable formats under an open license and accessible via open.canada.ca:
 - Release the results of the 2016 Census (Short Form and Long Form) in 2017 based on a published release schedule; and
 - Host on-line "Chat with an Expert" and in-person "Talking Stats" sessions to enable Canadians to interact with Statistics Canada analysts and better understand the published data.
- e. Improve Canadians' access to data and information proactively disclosed by departments and agencies through a single, common online search tool:

- Enhance self-service tools for departments to publish proactive disclosure information to strengthen the quality of data being released.
- f. Adopt the International Open Data Charter and initiate implementation of the Charter requirements:
- Encourage civil society and private sector organizations to open up their own data where this would be of public benefit; and
 - Measure progress and report on Canada’s implementation of Charter principles.

Expected result

Canadians will have access to diverse, high quality government data that is discoverable, accessible, and reusable. They will also be able to interact directly with the Chief Statistician and with Statistics Canada analysts to better understand the data and the importance of official statistics.

Description of results

- a. Departmental [open data inventories](#) were published for the first time in March 2017. With the creation of these inventories, over 1,500 new datasets have been identified as eligible for release. In addition to having the ability to search through the inventories on open.canada.ca, citizens also have the option to communicate with the Government by voting on datasets most useful to them. This in turn will help departments and agencies to fast track the more popular datasets for release based on voting. [See related blog.](#)
- As of June 30, 2017: 89% of large departments (33 of 37), 61% of small departments (14 of 23), 4% micro organizations (1 of 24) have submitted their open data inventories. Large organizations (>500 employees) represent 94% of the total public service; Small organizations (150-500 employees) represent 4% of the total public service; and Micro organizations (<150 employees) represent 1% of the total public service.

As a result of this exercise, in addition to new datasets being identified, new governance processes were established in several departments, awareness of open government increased, and it created an opportunity for citizens to influence Government priorities by voting for datasets.

- b. Since June 2016, over 4,000 new non-spatial datasets and 27,000 new geospatial datasets have been published on open.canada.ca.
- c. Open.canada.ca was re-launched in October 2016 to improve the search and discovery of open data records by developing an integrated search with more search filters and enriched metadata. This has improved Canadians’ access to data and information proactively disclosed by departments and agencies.

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has established an interdepartmental Open Government Resource Development Working Group as a collaborative forum with departments and agencies. One of its first deliverables is a guidance document to provide comprehensive and authoritative direction on requirements for publishing open government resources. It will include formal guidance on issues such as data quality, accessibility, official languages, privacy and security, prioritization, anonymization, and metadata standards.

Preliminary work has begun on engaging Indigenous Peoples on data including hosting a workshop with Indigenous thought leaders entitled, “Indigenous Perspectives on Open Data” and facilitating Indigenous participation at the [Canadian Open Data Summit](#) in Edmonton in June 2017.

- d. The dissemination of the 2016 census results is proceeding according to the [pre-published calendar](#). To date, the following results have been published: [Population and dwelling counts](#) (February 8, 2017); [Age and sex, Type of dwelling](#) (May 3, 2017).

Five “[Chat with an Expert](#)” sessions and four “[Talking Stats](#)” sessions took place between July 2016 and June 2017. Another event, part of a [Speaker Series for Canada 150](#), took place on April 25, 2017.

- e. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has worked with policy leads to create standardized proactive disclosure templates for the following reporting types: contracts over 10K, grants and contributions, travel and hospitality, acts of founded wrongdoing, position reclassification as well as annual contract and travel reporting.

Departments have the ability to publish disclosures live to open.canada.ca within one day of submitting completed templates.

A proactive disclosure page on GCpedia has been created for users. It includes documentation such as training guides, training video, data element profiles and contact information.

- f. During the Open Government Partnership’s Global Summit in December 2016 (Paris) Minister Brison announced that [Canada will adopt the International Open Data Charter](#). The Government of Canada continues to serve as a Lead Steward of the [Open Data Charter](#), and has supported the development of key resources to support more effective implementation of Charter principles (see Commitment 21).

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to work with:
 - departments and agencies to develop release schedules to publish datasets captured in their inventory; and

- small and micro sized departments, which generally have fewer dedicated open government resources, to provide assistance with inventories and data release.

It will also explore trends gleaned from the data inventory exercise to inform a strategy for data management across the Government of Canada.

- The Open Government team at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to work with departments to release new datasets and develop publication schedules based on datasets captured in their open data inventories, a deliverable in the [Directive on Open Government](#).
- Consultations will be held over the summer of 2017 on the guidance document referenced above, that will provide comprehensive and authoritative direction on requirements for departments when publishing open government resources. The document will be finalized and published on open.canada.ca later in 2017.

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will work to deepen engagement and collaboration with Indigenous thought leaders on open data. It will also identify engagement tools and practices that support and reflect a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.

- Statistics Canada will continue to disseminate the 2016 census results according to the [release schedule](#): Families, households and marital status, Language (August 2, 2017); Income (September 13, 2017); Immigration and ethnocultural diversity, Housing, Aboriginal peoples (October 25, 2017); Education, Labour, Journey to work, Language of work, Mobility and migration (November 29, 2017).

Seven “[Chat with an Expert](#)” sessions are currently planned between July 2017 and December 2017 (6 for the 2016 Census releases and 1 on Health):

- 2016 Census: Families/Households/Marital status/Language (Aug. 2, 2017)
- 2016 Census: Income (Sept. 15, 2017)
- Health (Oct. 23, 2017)
- 2016 Census: Immigration/Ethnocultural diversity (Oct. 27, 2017)
- 2016 Census: Housing/Aboriginal Peoples (Oct. 30, 2017)
- 2016 Census: Education/Labour (Dec. 1, 2017)
- 2016 Census: Journey to work/Language of work/Mobility/Migration (Dec. 4, 2017)

Five “[Talking Stats](#)” events are planned between September 2017 and April 2018:

- Diversity and inclusion, Montreal, Quebec (Sept. 25, 2017)
- Impact of oil prices on Canadian economy, Calgary, Alberta (Oct. 19, 2017)
- Agriculture, Winnipeg, Manitoba (Nov. 20, 2017)
- Education and Immigration, Halifax, Nova Scotia (Jan. 25, 2018)
- Housing, Toronto, Ontario (TBD – April 2018)

Three events part of the [Speaker Series for Canada 150](#) are planned between September and November 2017:

- Aboriginal Peoples (September 21, 2017)
 - Environment (October 31, 2017)
 - Youth (November 16, 2017)
- e. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to provide support to departments through training and documentation available on GCpedia and in person. Additionally, as departments migrate their proactive disclosure information to open.canada.ca, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will provide support for the migration, as well as ongoing support to departments publishing their disclosures.

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat is in discussions with all proactive disclosure policy leads to provide additional guidance to departments. Key areas of focus include migration of legacy content, retention and disposition, and mandatory publishing deadlines. Once appropriate decisions have been made, updates will be communicated to departments.

- f. Canada will work to implement the principles of the Open Data Charter, and to report publicly on its progress in doing so. Canada will continue to work with government, civil society, and private sector stakeholders across Canada and around the world to support the release of high-quality, high-value open data.

Completion level

- a. Completed
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial
- d. Substantial
- e. Substantial
- f. Limited

Additional information

Another example of how Statistics Canada is making its data holdings more relevant and understandable to Canadians is the publication of three new products on the occasion of Canada 150:

- [Behind every number: A portrait of Canada](#) - a video about Canada seen through the lens of statistics.
- [Canada Day... by the numbers](#) - an article that presents interesting facts compiled to portray Canada's ethnocultural diversity, our national identity, land and natural environment, and more.
- [Connecting Stats, Stories and People](#) - a new blog that features compelling interviews with key data users and stakeholders on how, together, we tell Canada's story in numbers.

Commitment 4: Provide and preserve open information

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat; Library and Archives Canada; Public Services and Procurement Canada

Other actors involved: Contributing Government of Canada departments

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

As information becomes increasingly digitized, it brings with it a number of challenges including ensuring its findability and preservation. As a result, efforts to improve how information can be found, used, shared, and preserved are underway. Canada has made significant progress on improving public access to government data under its last two Action Plans. By improving access to other forms of government information and ensuring preservation of this information, the Government of Canada can promote and maintain informed participation and sound decision-making.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will establish government-wide initiatives, platforms, and tools to ensure that open information is discoverable and accessible for use by future generations.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The Government of Canada is working to provide enhanced, centralized, one-stop access to digital content from departments and agencies across government. Guidance is being developed to ensure the ongoing preservation of this information through the application of consistent standards and practices for long-term preservation.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP value of transparency.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Enhance the Open Information Portal on open.canada.ca to improve access to digital publications made available by the federal government and develop a strategy to ensure the sustainability of access over time.
- b. Develop and publish clear guidelines on the preservation and retention of digital content.
- c. Increase Canadians' access to records documenting the continuing memory of the Government of Canada.
- d. Update Library and Archives Canada's online archive of the Government of Canada's web presence to ensure Canadians' long-term access to federal web content.
- e. Expand the implementation of the government-wide information technology solution for the effective management of federal records and documents (GCDOCS) as a foundation for improved transparency:

- Roll out this common solution managed by Public Services and Procurement Canada to 125,000 government workers across government departments by June 2018.

Expected result

Canadians will have easy access to government information that is discoverable, accessible, and preserved for generations. They will also have greater access to Library and Archives Canada's government records holdings.

Description of results

- a. In October 2016, the new [Open Information Portal](#) was launched as a way to provide an enhanced entry point to access to digital content from across government. As of June 30th 2017, this collection holds 166 Government of Canada information assets.

In October 2016, the publishing platform, [registry.open.canada.ca](#), was relaunched to consolidate the publication process for all open government resources. This includes, open data, open information, proactive disclosure reports, access to information summary reports, and open data inventories. Prior to this, there were 3 different publishing platforms. This integration enabled a simpler publication process as well as the development of a single search on [open.canada.ca](#).

As of June 30, 2017, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, in partnership with various departmental stakeholders, was in the process of developing an [Open by Default Pilot Project](#) to be hosted on [open.canada.ca](#). It will demonstrate the ability of the Government of Canada to provide public access to non-sensitive, federal information in a timely and relevant manner. Various types of documents have been identified that will be accessible in draft format (i.e., working documents), to enable Canadians to observe and comment on programs and policy in development.

- b. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has established an interdepartmental Open Government Resource Development Working Group as a collaborative forum with departments and agencies. One of its first deliverables is a co-created guidance document that will provide comprehensive and authoritative guidance on requirements for publishing open government resources. It will include formal guidance on issues such as retention and disposition rules for digital content added to [open.canada.ca](#), as well as the requirements for accessibility and metadata.
- c. Through the [Block Review](#) process, Library and Archives Canada, has opened 8,161,794 pages of government records.

Library and Archives Canada is developing policy instruments (including a Directive on Making Government of Canada Records Available and related criteria) for the removal of access restrictions from government records prior to their transfer to Library and Archives Canada.

From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, 150,000 [Personnel Files of the First World War](#), Canadian Expeditionary Force were made available to the public. This is approximately 1.1 million digitized

pages.

From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, 45 historical datasets were released.

- d. In this reporting period, Library and Archives Canada continued its ongoing harvest of Government of Canada websites and capturing the migration of sites to Canada.ca as part of the government's Web Renewal Initiative. Since July 1, 2016 Library and Archives Canada has harvested 3.34 terabytes from the Government of Canada web domain (.gc.ca & Canada.ca). In addition, in March 2017, Library and Archives Canada negotiated a contract for a larger data budget for harvesting which has enabled the harvesting of Government of Canada YouTube Channels, amounting to almost 1 terabyte of information. Library and Archives Canada now has over 20 terabytes of archived GC web data spanning from 2005.
- e. As of June 2017, GCDOCS has been rolled out to 85,000 federal government workers.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. The Open Government team at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will finalize guidance documents for publishing open government resources on open.canada.ca which will provide departments with better clarity on publishing requirements. With this, it is expected that more departments will contribute information assets to open.canada.ca. Also, as part of the Directive on Open Government, Government of Canada departments and agencies will be required to complete an open information inventory by October 2018. Therefore, by December 2017, the Open Government team at the Treasury Board Secretariat will need to develop and provide firm guidance on the scope of open information as well as the accessibility and official languages requirements for new content. Currently, this has been a huge barrier for publication, as departments lack resources to translate and convert material into accessible formats in order to publish on open.canada.ca. The Open Government team will be exploring potential tools to assist departments with resolving these issues in order to increase the publication rate of open information assets on open.canada.ca.
- b. Consultations will be held over the summer of 2017 on the guidance document referenced above, that will provide comprehensive and authoritative direction on requirements for departments when publishing open government resources. The document will be finalized and published on open.canada.ca later in 2017.
- c. Library and Archives Canada estimates that an additional 240,000 pages will be reviewed by June 2018. Final policy instruments approval will be sought during the fall of 2017. The Directive will be available on Library and Archives Canada's external website and guidelines on removing restrictions will be published on GCpedia by the end of this fiscal year (i.e., March 2018). The remaining 160,000 [Canadian Expeditionary Force](#) files will be made available by June 30, 2018. This is approximately another 1.2 million pages that will be digitized. Another 45 datasets have been identified for release by June 30, 2018.
- d. Library and Archives Canada's plan for the coming year is to: continue capturing and migrating Government of Canada sites in collaboration with the Web Renewal team, take updated

captures of still-existing .gc.ca sites, and develop harvest and quality assurance methodologies for capturing the evolving Canada.ca domain. They are also looking at improving the indexation process to facilitate timely access.

Indexation of acquired content since 2015 is yet to be done. Once the indexing of the content has been completed, harvested websites will be available to the public.

- e. By 2018, a three-year plan will be established to onboard all of the partner departments to GCDOCS, representing the majority of the public service population. By June 2018, the GCDOCS service aims to expand to at least 125,000 users.

Completion level

- a. Limited
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial
- d. Substantial
- e. Substantial

Commitment 5: Define an approach for measuring open government performance

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: Contributing Government of Canada departments, provinces and territories

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Since open government is a relatively new way of doing things, there is no single, common, and agreed-upon methodology to measure progress. As Canada defines its goals, it will also have to define how it wants to measure them, identifying interim steps towards longer term objectives.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will integrate performance indicators for openness and transparency into a Performance Management Framework for Open Government.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Gathering data and analyzing on the release of data and information will help measure progress on improving openness and transparency. Further analysis will be completed as part of the development of an overall Performance Management Framework for government-wide information management to expand beyond these and better measure progress on broader open government efforts.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to accountability, transparency and civic participation.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Integrate key performance indicators related to openness and transparency as part of a Performance Framework for managing data and information government-wide.
- b. Measure and report publicly on annual departmental progress on implementation of the Directive on Open Government.
- c. Work on developing a performance management framework and indicators that can better measure a wider breadth of Open Government efforts and outcomes.

Expected result

It will be easier for citizens to track the Government's progress on improving openness and transparency.

Description of results

- a. Key performance indicators and targets have been identified for all 22 commitments in the Third Biennial Plan to the Open Government Partnership. [Online dashboards](#) were created and launched in June 2017 to publicly track Canada's progress on its Third Biennial Plan. The Open Government team at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has adopted ambitious goals on the basis of a logic model for open government. It will be reporting on progress towards desired outcomes in the logic model.
- b. Departmental open data inventories were published for the first time in March 2017. With the creation of these inventories, over 1,500 new datasets have been identified as eligible for release. As of June 30, 2017: 89% of large departments (33 of 37), 61% of small departments (14 of 23), and 4% micro organizations (1 of 24) have submitted their open data inventories. Large organizations (>500 employees) represent 94% of the total public service; small organizations (150-500 employees) represent 4% of the total public service; and micro organizations (<150 employees) represent 1% of the total public service.
- c. Research scan has been completed on existing global indexes related to open government as well as the current Government of Canada performance measurement context. The Government of Canada hosted an in-person senior executives meeting of the Canadian Open Government Working Group on June 12, 2017 on the margins of the Canadian Open Data Summit in Edmonton, Alberta. A decision was taken by the group to collaborate over the next year on developing a performance measurement framework for open government, with clear indicators. A work plan has been developed and agreed upon by members of the Canadian Open Government Working Group. It is available on GCcollab.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Dashboards will be updated, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis. The Open Government team at Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will publish its logic model.

- b. The open data inventories will be updated annually. The public will be able to ‘vote’ on which dataset they would like to see published, and departments will prioritize their release based on popularity.
- c. Next steps to develop a performance management framework include:
 - Stocktaking of existing indicators;
 - Determining common outputs and outcomes with which to design an indicators framework;
 - Engaging key stakeholders (e.g., all levels of governments, academics, practitioners and civil society) to identify measurement priorities and refine indicators;
 - Synthesizing engagement perspectives and findings into a report; and
 - Collecting data, implementing the measurement framework and publishing outcomes.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Limited

Commitment 6: Develop open government skills across the federal public service

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Canada School of Public Service

Other actors involved: GovLab, the Government of Canada’s policy community

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Public servants in the Government of Canada must change how they design and deliver programs and services to support Canada’s commitments to transparency and public engagement. An openness mindset needs to be integrated into day-to-day business activities. Open data, for example, is useful not only to those who regularly evaluate and use data to support financial, statistical, and socio-economic analysis, but also to non-data specialists working in policy, operational, and service delivery areas. Sharing and leveraging data, information, and technology across the government can help innovation flourish.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will support a shift to greater transparency and engagement within the public service through Open Government learning material and opportunities for public servants.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Individuals working in departments across government will have access to learning material to build their skills and capabilities for using open data, open information, and open dialogue to support better

operational and policy decisions. Furthermore, to boost the value of available open data to Canadians, public servants can be guided to understand how to set priorities for data or information publication, based on its potential value to users both inside and outside of government.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency, civic participation, and accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Provide enhanced information management learning opportunities and additional materials to raise public servants' awareness and understanding of open government principles and practices, including:
 - Using open data and information to support policy analysis and development;
 - Sharing best practices in digital public engagement;
 - Setting priorities for the release of open data and information based on potential public impact and benefit; and
 - Implementing the Directive on Open Government.
- b. Lead and/or participate in educational forums and workshops designed to further the understanding of how to increase government transparency and foster civic engagement.
- c. Through public consultation on the 2016 Government of Canada IT Strategic Plan, consider feedback on how software solutions, including open source, can be best leveraged to meet strategic objectives.

Expected result

Federal public servants will be better equipped to apply open government principles to day-to-day work to provide citizens with easier access to government.

Description of results

- a. Results to date include:
 - As of June 30, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat had recorded 34 learning events with federal public servants involving approximately 1,800 learners from at least 26 federal organizations.
 - These learning events have covered topics such as an introduction to open government, detailed information on the Government of Canada's work on open government, open data, open information, open dialogue, open licensing, open source, open maps, and open policy making.
 - The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has had a significant role in showcasing and advancing open policy making at the [2017 Innovation Fair](#), the [Policy Community Conference](#), and as one of the [pillars](#) of the [Canada Beyond 150](#) training program.

- The Canada School of Public Service and Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat hosted the first armchair discussion ever made accessible to Canadians at large, [Open Government Starts with You](#). The audience was comprised of 98 Canadians from outside the public service and 287 public servants connected via webcast, and 71 public servants in attendance. The two organizations also hosted a second armchair discussion on open data, [available here](#).
- The Canada School of Public Service worked in close collaboration with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat to identify learning gaps and possible learning solutions that would better support this commitment, as well as operational needs and open government policy related decisions.
- The Canada School of Public Service created an Open Government Learning Framework, identifying key learning objectives in enterprise leadership and organizational management, as well as individual skills and competencies for supporting and implementing open government principles and practices. Existing Canada School of Public Service learning products that support them were identified.
- The Canada School of Public Service has established a new open government learning page on its [GCcampus](#) application, a place where public servants have access to a number of learning opportunities (online and classroom courses, development programs, external resources, etc.) that help raise awareness and build understanding of how to use open data, open information and open dialogue. As of June 30, the page has had 1,893 visits.
- The Canada School of Public Service offers a variety of learning products that support open government, on topics ranging from access to information and privacy fundamentals, to advanced information management methods, to how to use GCDOCS as a tool to ensure that open information is discoverable and accessible. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 a total of 35,755 learners from 109 federal organizations have registered for the 14 available Canada School of Public Service courses (online and classroom) that support open government.
- With regard to setting priorities for the release of open data and information and implementing the Directive on Open Government, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has coordinated the completion and release of departmental [data inventories](#) required under the Directive. On the basis of the inventories, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has engaged various actors, including the [Industrial Research Assistance Program](#) and other partners across government, to identify high priority data sets. It has also maintained its [Suggest a Dataset](#) function on open.canada.ca.
- The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has contributed to maintaining a well-informed open government community, including by providing regular updates to departmental open government coordinators at monthly open government working group meetings and by maintaining an active [blog](#) and social media presence, including through Government of Canada platforms such as [GCcollab](#), GConnex and GCpedia

- b. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat has participated in several forums over the past year to build capacity and advance understanding around open government. Specific events include: lectures at universities and engagement with academics, including through the [Academic Days on Open Government Issues](#); the [2016 GovMaker conference](#); the [annual conference](#) of the Association for Technological Development in Education; local events of the International Association for Public Participation; [Go Open Data](#); a panel organized by Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat on the implications of open data for Indigenous Peoples; several events with subnational open government leaders, including the [Canadian Open Data Summit](#); several hackathons; and numerous events with international partners and counterparts, including through the Open Government Partnership, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank. The Privy Council Office has also contributed to advancing this work, having developed and delivered public engagement learning opportunities, including five 1-day training sessions for 135 participants within 4 months, with 2 train-the-trainers sessions to build learning sustainability in the federal public service.
- c. The Government of Canada IT Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was open for [public consultation](#) through summer and fall 2016. It was posted externally for comments and a half day industry event was held in August. A What We Heard report was completed in December 2016 but has yet to be published. Feedback received through consultations identified open source as an omission in the Strategic Plan.

In February and March 2017, consultations were held with the federal government Chief Information Officer and Information Management Senior Officer communities to gather additional input for a second version of the Strategic Plan. This included the integration of information management and addressing omissions identified through public consultation.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat aims to establish a learning hub on open.canada.ca so that learning resources can be posted publicly. Having raised awareness of the opportunity of open government in the federal public service, it also aims to provide more specialized training, in addition to publishing an online introductory course and a [Do-It-Yourself Open Data Toolkit](#) that are currently both in development. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to develop content to raise awareness of open government.
- b. Going forward, the Canada School of Public Service will continue to integrate open government content into its learning products, where applicable. It will also continue to participate and organize learning opportunities with its partners. Going forward, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to participate and organize educational forums. It will also continue to support partners in this work, including by continuing to support subnational governments to advance skills for open government, as agreed at the June meeting of the Canadian Open Government Working Group.

- c. The next version of the Government of Canada IM/IT Strategic Plan (2017-2021) will address comments identified during consultations around open source to introduce a strategy for the use of open source software and open standards for the Government of Canada.

Two other strategic actions associated with 'open' will also be included in the IM/IT Strategic Plan. These include 'Shift the culture and processes toward open by design' and 'Expand open government training and outreach'. The target timeframe for publishing the Strategic Plan is fall 2017.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial

Commitment 7: Embed transparency requirements in the federal service strategy

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: Service delivery departments and agencies

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Excellence in service delivery is at the core of citizens' expectations for their governments. For a government to truly be open and accountable, it must deliver responsive services and be transparent on results.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will develop a new Clients-First Service Strategy that embeds requirements for openness and transparency in the delivery of government services.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The Government is developing a Service Strategy that will transform service design and delivery across the public service, putting clients at the centre.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Develop a Government of Canada Service Strategy that aims to create a single, user-centric online window for government services.
- b. Establish new performance standards and set up a mechanism to conduct rigorous assessments of the performance of key government services, and report findings publicly.

Expected result

The Service Strategy will set a new direction for service delivery to individuals and businesses. It aims to create a single online window for government services, with new performance standards. It will ensure rigorous assessments of the performance of key government services and report findings publicly.

Description of results

- a. The Government of Canada has developed a Service Strategy. It's goal is to continually improve the quality of service provided to Canadians by:
 - ensuring that services are designed and delivered in a way that puts clients' needs first;
 - making the online service experience so easy that users choose the digital path; and
 - ensuring that services are connected to each other so that the Government can offer a "tell us once" experience, in partnership with other Canadian jurisdictions, to minimize how often Canadians are asked to provide the same information.

The Strategy was highlighted in the Clerk of the Privy Council's [Twenty-Fourth Annual Report to the Prime Minister on the Public Service](#).

- b. The new Service Strategy includes performance measures to enable public reporting on progress.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will work with departments and agencies to publish and implement the Service Strategy.
- b. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will work with departments to establish, publicize, consolidate and promote client-oriented service standards; report baseline data publicly where available, and continue to improve reporting as more data becomes available.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial

Commitment 8: Enhance access to culture & heritage collections

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Canadian Heritage

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Canada is a vast country and access for many citizens to Canadian Culture and Heritage artefacts can be a challenge. Although an increasing proportion of Canadian Culture and Heritage artefacts are available in a digitized format, they are on individual websites and may still be difficult to find. This opens new opportunities to expand the scope and reach of Canadian museums and the social and economic benefits they deliver to Canadians. Using Linked Open Data approaches, this initiative will link the collections across Canadian museums forming a National Inventory of Cultural and Heritage Artefacts.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will expand collaboration with its provincial, territorial, and municipal partners and key stakeholders to develop a searchable National Inventory of Cultural and Heritage Artefacts to improve access across museum collections.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

In 2015-16, the Canadian Heritage Information Network Program partnered with eight art museums across Canada to develop an approach to link the collections of each museum with each other, and to related external resources, based on industry best practices (e.g., Linked Open Data). This work demonstrates the feasibility of using Open Data approaches to link collections across museums and other memory organizations.

Building on these results, the Canadian Heritage Information Network Program is developing and implementing a multi-year business strategy to work with the Culture and Heritage community to grow the network of linked collections through the Canadian Culture and Heritage Linked Open Data Cloud.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency, civic participation, and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Develop authorities and standards to guide the consistent implementation of this approach.
- b. Enhance the ability to search and browse across museum collections.
- c. Expand the network of museums participating in this initiative and the links to related external resources.
- d. Host digital collections for museums that currently do not have a digital presence.

Expected result

Citizens will be able to browse, discover, share and re-use data on cultural and heritage artefact collections from Canadian museums.

Description of results

- a. In 2016-17, Canadian Heritage continued work on collecting data from four of the institutions involved in the 150 Years of Canadian Art project (Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Art Gallery of Ontario, the McCord Museum and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection). The domain was expanded beyond Canadian art to include objects from more varied collections such as Asian art, ethnology and costumes and textiles. Canadian Heritage developed a new site called the [Canadian Heritage Information Network Program Linked Data Test site](#).

As of June 2017, reference points for 14,885 terms from a recognized standard (nomenclature) were created, and records for 529 institutions, 794 groups (artist groups, organizations), and 60,575 persons were developed. These authorities will be used in future phases of the project.

- b. In addition to the reference points mentioned above, resource indicators were created for 166,762 objects. A taxonomy was also implemented as a search assistant, and a tabbed interface with multiple access points was developed.
- c. As of June 2017, 8 partner museums have joined the project: the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the McCord Museum, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, the Musée des beaux arts de Montréal, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Vancouver Art Gallery. Select data contributed by these institutions has been enhanced with linkages to Linked Open Data sources from around the world.
- d. No action taken on this deliverable to date.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Based on lessons learned from the project to date, next steps to develop authorities and standards this year will include:
 - refining the data model,
 - selection of target ontologies,

- elaborating a design for maintaining national authorities and linking them to existing global authorities, and
- continuing to liaise with international bodies with expertise in this area.

The data model will be the most important foundation piece to be developed this year.

- The lessons learned from this project and the improved interface will help Canadian Heritage to continue to improve access to online collections. We will work with international partners to develop a suitable data model based on best practices that will help to enhance the ability to search across museum collections. We will then work with Canadian museums to promote understanding and use of this model. In the meantime, we are implementing an interim solution to ensure that heritage data continues to be accessible to the public, although search capabilities may be limited.
- Although the original commitment called for an expansion, Canadian Heritage is unlikely to be involving more partner institutions or adding more data in the coming year, given work needed to focus foremost on refining the data model and selecting tools. The interim solution is planned to include data from over 500 museums which will be accessible to the public, but will not be based on linked data and will have limited search capability.
- The creation of linked open data is a relatively new way of publishing data on the web, and standards and tools are still being developed. Canadian Heritage will be examining tools that are available for harvesting or collecting museum data, but due to the foundational work needed to harvest and provide a repository for digital collections for museums that currently do not have a digital presence, Canadian Heritage will not be in a position to make progress on this deliverable within the time period of the Plan. Although the linked data solution will take some time to implement, an interim application is planned this fiscal year which will host digital collections for museums without a digital presence on the web.

Completion level

- Substantial
- Limited
- Limited
- Not started

Additional information

An evaluation of Canadian Heritage's current projects (e.g., 150 Years of Canadian Art and the Canadian Heritage Information Network Program Linked Data Test Site) has revealed that they need to make some adjustments before scaling up to create 5-star data based on heritage collections from across Canada.

Commitment 9: Enhance openness of information on government spending and procurement

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat; Department of Finance Canada; Public Services and Procurement Canada

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Understanding how well the Government is doing as a whole, or in key areas of interest, is challenging because data is presented across multiple reports and information sources. Canadians expect their government to implement effective and efficient programs and services, and to report transparently on whether they are meeting their intended goals. A clear understanding of what resources are being used by departments to deliver programs and services is fundamental to Parliament's role of holding government accountable for delivering on its priorities. Information on planned spending and results for government activities is currently provided through mandatory departmental reports, including [Reports on Plans and Priorities \(RPPs\)](#) and [Departmental Performance Reports \(DPRs\)](#).

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will increase the transparency of government spending and procurement to hold government accountable for public expenditures.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

As part of the Government of Canada's new [Policy on Results](#), mandatory departmental reporting is being re-focused on each department's long-term mandates as well as their immediate priorities. Related data from planned and actual activities is available on a searchable online database that provides quick and easy access to detailed information on government spending and people management. This data is presented in a manner which facilitates Canadians' analysis and broader understanding of where government resources are being invested.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Release an interactive tool that will increase the granularity of data and information made available and enable Canadians to better understand federal departmental spending:

- Expand the types of data, graphics, and analytics available including:
 - i. Planned and actual results;
 - ii. Comparisons between historical and planned spending; and
 - iii. Spending on specific components such as salaries, capital, transfer payments, etc.
 - Enable users to explore government spending of the most interest to them based on key data elements (e.g., target group, program type, priority area, etc.).
- b. Enhance online content pertaining to government finances on open.canada.ca to make information and tools on government spending readily accessible to Canadians.
 - c. Provide targeted and timely material to make government accounting and financial reporting more consistent, transparent, and understandable to Canadians.
 - d. Pilot updating the BuyandSell.gc.ca site to record the full details of contracts (in addition to awards), contract amendments, and the final termination of contracts.
 - e. Participate in a case study to share best practices from Public Service and Procurement Canada’s pilot of the Open Contracting Data Standard on BuyandSell.gc.ca.

Expected result

It will be easier for Canadians to see how government resources are being distributed across the areas that interest them. They will have greater online access to government financial information. They will also be able to follow the procurement process from start to finish according to international standards.

Description of results

- a. The [InfoBase](#) has been updated to include:
 - Streamlined and consolidated information on the [Inventory of Government of Canada Organizations](#);
 - [Forward-looking spending and results information](#) in support of the Policy on Results;
 - Granular level expenditure data; and,
 - Metadata “tags” that make it easier for users to search for information according to area of interest.

Significant changes have also been made to improve the look and functionality of the InfoBase, making it more user-friendly for Canadians.

- b. The following datasets were added to the Open Data portal:
 - [The Fiscal Monitor: 2016-2017](#)
 - [International Aid Transparency Initiative: May 2017](#)
 - [Federal Budget 2017](#)

The [How government works](#) – Government finances topic on Canada.ca was updated to point to the most recent budget (Budget 2017).

- c. For Budget 2017, the department released the following additional content to make the budget more transparent and understandable:
 - [Budget 2017 in 3 Minutes](#)
 - [2017 Pre-Budget Consultations Summary Report](#).
- d. Public Services and Procurement Canada increased transparency on contracts for standing offers and supply arrangements, via the release of the [Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements Application](#).

The department also introduced increased detail on standing offers and supply arrangements issued to suppliers, including call-up values, socio-economic benefits, multiple price lists and supporting files, and authorized provincial/territorial users.

- e. So far, best practices from the [Open Contracting Data Standard pilot](#) include the importance of linking procurement data from all phases of the procurement process (i.e., from requisition to spending on a procurement). This serves to provide improved analysis of the contracting data flow, increase transparency, and improve cost evaluation and traceability across the procurement process by linking related procurement data. The linked procurement data, as prescribed by the Open Contracting Data Standard pilot, should serve as requirements for future implementation of contracting systems. We came to the conclusion that any new service or procurement system should generate by-default data in Open Contracting Data Standard format. Formatting as per Open Contracting Data Standard should not be an afterthought.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to improve the content and overall functionality of the InfoBase over the coming year including:
 - Expanding available human resources information;
 - Exploring ways to help users find information more quickly and effectively (including expanding the use of tags); and,
 - Implementing an InfoBase feedback survey to better understand the overall user experience and focus efforts for future improvements.
- b. In order to complete this deliverable by June 2018, Finance Canada will implement open data best practices to facilitate the addition of further datasets to open.canada.ca. It will release datasets that were identified as eligible for release in their open data inventory and will add additional links to relevant resources under [Government finances](#) on Canada.ca.

- c. In order to complete this deliverable by June 2018, Finance Canada will continue to develop overviews, summary reports, and digital materials that are consistent, transparent and understandable to Canadians.
- d. Public Services and Procurement Canada will make progress on the enhanced [Supplier Registration Information](#) service, to bring increased integrity to supplier registration for contracting, which will enable the creation of authoritative and traceable contracting data.
- e. Public Services and Procurement Canada will introduce requisition data to link to existing tender and contracting data on Buyandsell.gc.ca, including updated content regarding data gaps and best practices. They will also update content on Buyandsell.gc.ca to share best practices from using the Open Contracting Data Standard. This deliverable is on track to complete progress on the Open Contracting Data Standard pilot for June 2018, in accordance with the introduction of the requisition data. The inclusion of spending data will be initiated after June 2018.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Limited
- c. Limited
- d. Substantial
- e. Limited

Commitment 10: Increase transparency of Budget and other Department of Finance information

Overall status: ahead of schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Department of Finance

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Each year, the Department of Finance Canada plans and prepares the federal government's budget and analyzes economic and fiscal developments. This serves to provide policy advice on a wide range of economic issues of concern to the health of Canada's economy. The datasets for federal budgets have been released publicly since 2015 but with a lag time of six to eight weeks given formatting, editing and translation requirements. As well, the list of briefing note titles prepared on a wide range of economic and other matters by Department of Finance officials has only been made available to specific requestors through access to information requests.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will provide access to the datasets used in the Federal Budget each year in near real time and proactively disclose the list of briefing note titles prepared on economic and other matters.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

There is an opportunity to accelerate the preparation of the datasets used in the Budget. This would allow their publication in near real-time following the release of the Budget to facilitate analysis by citizens and Parliamentarians. There is also an opportunity to broaden public access to the titles of briefing notes prepared by Department of Finance officials for the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary, and the Deputy Minister, in order to be transparent about the issues raised.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates of the OGP values of transparency and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Starting with Budget 2017, make all data from Budget charts and tables available in near real time to facilitate analysis by citizens and Parliamentarians.
- b. Post publicly the list of briefing note titles prepared by Department of Finance officials on a regular basis, in order to be transparent about issues raised.
- c. Explore options to increase the transparency of the pre-budget consultation process.

Expected result

Canadians will have timely access to the data used in the annual federal Budget and other Department of Finance information.

Description of results

- a. [Datasets for Budget 2017](#) were published on the open.canada.ca on March 20, 2017.
- b. Monthly public posting of briefing note titles prepared by Department of Finance officials for the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and the Deputy Minister are available as of August 2016 on [fin.gc.ca website](#).
- c. Starting with Budget 2016, the Department has posted summary reports of the results of the pre-budget consultations on fin.gc.ca ([2016](#) and [2017](#)).

Awareness of the Budget 2017 consultation greatly exceeded that of previous years and resulted in 30,797 completed online survey submissions due to digital and social media promotion.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Budget datasets will be published on the open.canada.ca portal one week following the release of the 2018 Federal Budget.
- b. The department will continue to publish the list of briefing note titles prepared by Department of Finance officials for the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and the Deputy Minister on a

monthly basis on [fin.gc.ca website](http://fin.gc.ca).

- c. The department will continue to explore ways to increase awareness and transparency of the pre-budget consultation process.

Completion level

- a. Completed
- b. Completed
- c. Substantial

Commitment 11: Increase transparency of grants and contributions funding

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Canadian Heritage

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Each year, the Government of Canada provides funding to support initiatives focused on career development, employment, homelessness, seniors, youth, and others through its various grants and contributions programs. Disbursing these funds works to meet the objectives of the Government and ultimately helps to better serve Canadians. Reporting on grants and contributions by departments is currently asymmetrical, with limited capacity to search reports across government. Furthermore, data is currently only required for grants and contributions with a funding amount in excess of \$25,000. Data published across government is in non-standard formats, thus making it more difficult to share.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will provide one-stop access to consistent, standardized searchable data on grants and contributions programs across the federal government.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Federal departments and agencies with the authority to deliver grants and contributions funding are currently disclosing data on agreements in excess of \$25,000 in order to foster greater transparency and openness. To further support the Government's commitment to transparency and openness, information on agreements less than \$25,000 will be disclosed voluntarily by departments, and information published will be standardized and consistent across government departments and agencies, improving the quality of the data, and allowing for increased searchability.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency, civic participation, and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Provide Canadians with centralized access to standardized information on grants and contributions funding that is proactively disclosed by federal departments via a common, searchable portal on open.canada.ca:
 - i. Establish a standardized, common template for federal departments to publish their data through the centralized portal;
 - ii. Increase access to grants and contributions information through a decrease to the required disclosure amount from \$25,000 to \$1;
 - iii. Provide training to federal departments on how to upload their data; and
 - iv. Ensure historical data previously disclosed by federal departments on grants and contributions funding is searchable via the central portal.
- b. In consultation with internal and external stakeholders, expand the amount of information on grants and contributions funding disclosed by departments to align with international standards.
- c. Pilot an approach to improving transparency in the delivery of grants and contributions by Canadian Heritage, including publication of:
 - i. An increased level of detail in the data proactively disclosed on individual grants and contributions awarded by the department;
 - ii. Performance results against published service standards; and
 - iii. Data on events and celebrations funded by the department.

Expected result

Canadians will have easy access to standardized information on all grants and contributions funding by federal departments through open.canada.ca.

Description of results

- a. Seventeen departments have begun publishing their Grants and Contributions disclosures on open.canada.ca. As a result, there are [over 37,000 grants and contributions disclosures](#) available and searchable on open.canada.ca.
 - i. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, in collaboration with 32 federal departments, external collaborators, and international influencers, has developed a common reporting template, as well as guidelines on how to report. Voluntarily, seven departments have begun disclosing more information in accordance with the proposed guidance. Additionally, external stakeholders and data users have been involved, and have commented on the success of the work on the commitment thus far. Finally, the new document nears completion.
 - ii. Language in draft updated Government of Canada guidelines indicates that the threshold for grants and contributions will be lowered to \$1.

- iii. Since July 2016, numerous in-person training sessions have been held with departmental contacts. Additionally, a GCpedia page was created to provide public servants with training manuals, data profiles as well as a streaming training session.
 - iv. Key decisions regarding the transfer of federal departments' historical data to open.canada.ca are currently being considered.
- b. A committee and sub-working groups, including 96% of federal grants and contributions money (32 departments) has been formed for the co-development and consultation process. A draft standard has been developed and endorsed by the appropriate sub-working groups. A draft guideline has been developed and is undergoing consultation and discussion. External stakeholders and primary users of data have been engaged on multiple occasions.
- c. Results to date include:
- i. All Canadian Heritage grants and contributions in excess of \$1 [were posted on Canada.ca](#) as of August 31, 2016. Canadian Heritage hosted 2 related consultations in October and November 2016. Canadian Heritage currently meets 25 of the 29 requirements proposed by Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat.
 - ii. Canadian Heritage is currently publishing [service standard results](#) for each program for two standards – acknowledgement and decision – on a semi-annual basis.
 - iii. Data on events and celebrations funded by the departments are published monthly through proactive disclosure.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. The migration of government grants and contributions to open.canada.ca is ongoing. Key decisions regarding retention and disposition, migration of legacy content and mandatory reporting dates to the open.canada.ca portal are currently being considered.
- i. Next steps for establishing a standardized, common template for federal departments to publish their data through the centralized portal include:
 - Consulting broadly using open.canada.ca;
 - Amending the template following consultations;
 - Seeking internal approval of the final documents; and
 - Putting the new requirements into effect using a 3-wave departmental implementation approach.
 - ii. N/A – completed.
 - iii. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue providing support to departments through training both online and in person. Once all departments have migrated to open.canada.ca, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat will continue to provide support to departments publishing their disclosures.
 - iv. Discussions are underway to develop a forward approach to the migration of historical content to the portal. Once key decisions regarding the migration of legacy content, as

well as other key issues such as retention and disposition and mandatory reporting have been made, they will be communicated to departments and next steps will be determined for the migration of historical data.

- b. Broad external consultations using open.canada.ca to ensure citizen views are incorporated, will take place later in 2017.
- c. Next steps include:
 - i. Maintain monthly updates into centralized Government-wide reporting on Canada.ca. Undertake work to address the remaining four data elements; look to be considered as a “wave 1” department.
 - ii. Canadian Heritage will maintain semi-annual publication of service standard results for programs and will soon include results on a third standard – payment.
 - iii. Canadian Heritage will continue to publish data on events and celebrations monthly through proactive disclosure.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial

Additional information

The efforts undertaken as part of this commitment have led to quite a bit of recognition of the Office of the Comptroller General’s work at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. Specifically, its story of co-creation and co-development is being shared, and its approach is being more broadly adopted across the government. To assist with this, the Office of the Comptroller General is developing a ‘What We Heard’ report, which will provide information on its process, consultation, the work undertaken.

The work undertaken to develop a new, common reporting template has also allowed a collaborative process of developing guidance, which will also be made publicly available. This guidance was developed in consultation with 32 departments to ensure it works for everyone, and it is a built in component of the reporting standard. This will be made public as part of the Guideline & Reporting Standard, to ensure the public understands exactly what is being reported on.

Commitment 12: Improve public information on Canadian corporations

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Innovation, Science, and Economic Development

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Currently, business identity information is distributed across jurisdictions in Canada, which poses access challenges for citizens and businesses alike. The federal, provincial, and territorial governments have agreed to collaborate on enhancing processes to reduce the burden on corporate registration and reporting and to provide streamlined access to corporate information through an online search. Making information about Canadian companies and organizations more accessible, discoverable, and usable, can ultimately improve corporate accountability.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will provide searchable information on Canadian businesses that is held in business registries at the federal, provincial, and territorial level.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The federal, provincial and territorial members of the Canadian Association of Corporate Law Administrators (CACLA) are collaborating on the development of an expandable and adaptable digital solution.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP value of transparency.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Launch a pilot project to provide citizens and business with online capacity to search existing federal and provincial (from Ontario, Québec, and Nova Scotia) business registries through a single search tool.
- b. Develop a proof of concept and prototype of a digital solution for reducing burden in the areas of corporate search, registration, and reporting for Canadian businesses that is expandable to all registries across Canada in order to drive consistency in corporate data provided to the public by both federal and provincial governments.
- c. Launch a pilot of the digital solution using real data in a test environment. The online corporate search component will be released for testing by users.

Expected result

Canadians will have access to real-time information on Canadian businesses registered at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels.

Description of results

- a. The pilot project is completed and has provided lessons learned on broader digital solution.

- b. As of September, 2016, all provinces and territories approved a proof of concept and agreed to model a prototype for a multi-jurisdictional access service. The proof of concept was developed from April to June 2016 in collaboration with British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia.

From November 2016 to March 2017, a prototype was developed using sample datasets from eight registries (federal, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Newfoundland).

- c. No action taken on this deliverable to date.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. N/A – completed
- b. N/A – completed
- c. From July 2017 to March 2018, the first iteration of the pilot will include corporate information from five registries: Canada (federal); British Columbia; Saskatchewan; Ontario; and Québec. From April 2018 to June 2018, the second iteration will include Alberta and Manitoba.

Completion level

- a. Completed
- b. Completed
- c. Not started

Commitment 13: Increase the availability and usability of geospatial data

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Natural Resources Canada

Other actors involved: Member departments of the [Federal Committee on Geomatics and Earth Observations](#) (FCGEO) supporting the [Federal Geospatial Platform](#) (FGP)

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Over the last five years, federal departments have worked together to establish a single platform to collect and share geospatial data. This effort enables Canadians to more easily discover, view, and understand geospatial data. Building on this strong foundation, the focus in the coming years will be to increase the quality and usability of geospatial data to derive additional information, solve problems, help with context setting, and assist with evidence-based decision-making.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will make more high-quality, authoritative, and useable geospatial data available in open formats to support better services to Canadians.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The geospatial data collection is being expanded, and the technologies to access that data are being improved, thereby fundamentally changing the way geospatial assets can be accessed and used by government and the public. The single window to federal geospatial data, open maps, is supporting progress towards a modern, networked, and tech-enabled society. It will ensure effective program delivery, improve services to Canadians, and support them in their day-to-day activities.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Improve access to open geospatial data through the expansion of open maps:
 - Increase the number of federal geospatial datasets available through a single window enabling Canadians to more easily find relevant geospatial data that can be mapped and visualized;
 - Provide access to satellite imagery through an open licence; and
 - Work with researchers, data enthusiasts, and developers who use geospatial data to share their work through the open maps gallery.

- b. Develop geospatial data and web service standards:
 - Increase the quality and standardization of critical geospatial data assets through strategic investments;
 - Implement a management and investment framework for high value federal geospatial data assets; and
 - Participate in geospatial standards bodies to ensure that Canada's data continues to be accessible and interoperable nationally and internationally.

- c. Develop Geospatial Applications:
 - Build mobile applications to disseminate key information to Canadians in an interactive format, which makes complex and large amounts of information easy to understand;
 - Provide targeted applications, which use open geospatial data to address the policy priorities of government; and
 - Provide the ability for Canadians to share data they collect through standardized tools.

Expected result

Canadians will be able to find and use high-quality maps.

Description of results

- a. As of June 30, 2017, there are 573 [federal geospatial datasets](#) available through a single window enabling Canadians to find geospatial data.
- b. Participated, on an ongoing basis, in the following geospatial standards bodies to ensure that Canada's data continues to be accessible and interoperable nationally and internationally:
 - US Federal Geographic Data Committee
 - Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
 - United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
 - World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- c. Targeted applications, which use open geospatial data to address the policy priorities of government, are available: (on-going through June 2018)
 - [DFO Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure](#)
 - [Demonstration Application of Arctic Food Security Policy](#)
 - [Clean Energy Resources and Projects \(CERP\) in Canada](#)
 - [North American Cooperation on Energy Information \(NACEI\)](#)
 - [Ten years of Drought in Canada](#)
Provided the ability for Canadians to share data they collect through standardized tools (on-going)
 - [Crowdsourced Geographic Information Pilot Project](#) – validating remotely sensed flood and ice-jam map products.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Next steps to June 2018 include:
 - Release a total of 750 federal geospatial datasets through standards based web services and open formats;
 - Continue to release [high-resolution digital elevation and surface models](#) derived from Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and optical imagery ([ArcticDEM](#)) through an open license;
 - Provide open licensed access to consistent national scale [cloud free imagery mosaics of Canada](#);
 - Work with researchers, data enthusiasts, and developers who use geospatial data to share their work through the [open maps gallery](#).
- b. Next steps to June 2018 include:
 - Strategic investments to improve quality and coverage;

- Implementing a management and investment framework for geodata ([FCGEO](#) departments participation in Federal Geospatial Platform Data Work Committee meetings currently limited public visibility of results);
 - Continuing to participate in the [Open Geospatial Consortium Quality of Service and Experience Domain Working Group](#) over summer 2017 with publication of an Open Geospatial Consortium best practices document by June 2018;
 - Joining the W3C/OGC Spatial Data Interest Group as charter member when it convenes in August 2017.
- c. Continue to provide and maintain targeted applications and to provide the ability for Canadians to share data they collect through standardized tools, as noted above.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial

Commitment 14: Increase openness of federal science activities (Open Science)

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Environment and Climate Change Canada; Innovation, Science, and Economic Development

Other actors involved: Science-based departments and agencies

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Scientific research and data that have been produced by the Government of Canada are often difficult for citizens to access. The Government of Canada undertakes a wide range of scientific activities, making significant investments in scientific research and knowledge creation that are essential for informing policy choices or decision making, providing services to Canadians, and ultimately supporting sustainable economic growth. At the same time, the Government highlighted its commitment to ensuring that government science is fully available to the public, consistent with its broader pledge for openness and transparency.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will take appropriate steps to make the science performed in support of Government of Canada programs and decision-making open and transparent to Canadians.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Horizontal implementation of the federal open science initiative began in 2012. Under the Third Biennial Plan to the OGP, the Government of Canada is building on past work by taking bold steps to make government-funded science open and transparent to Canadians. Reflecting the importance of citizen engagement and collaboration, deliverables are focused on increasing the accessibility of government science, helping to ensure Canadians are informed of opportunities to engage in federal science and technology (S&T) activities, and exploring ways to enhance the impact of government data and information.

Underscoring the Government's commitment to open science at the meeting of G7 Science and Technology Ministers in 2016, Canada supported a recommendation to establish an international working group on open science. This group is focused on sharing open science policies, exploring supportive incentive structures, and identifying good practices for promoting increased access to the results of publicly funded research, including scientific data and publications.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

Science-based Departments and Agencies

- a. Create a Chief Science Officer mandated to ensure that government science is fully available to the public, that scientists are able to speak freely about their work, and that scientific analyses are considered when the Government makes decisions.
- b. Increase the public availability of data and publications produced from federal (S&T) activities.
- c. Increase engagement with Canadians on federal S&T activities, including, as appropriate:
 - Enhanced communication of scientific participation opportunities in support of federal S&T activities; and
 - Targeted consultations on best practices for increasing the impact of federal S&T activities.
- d. Develop metrics to track collective federal progress on open science activities.

Granting Councils and Grants and Contributions

- e. Develop and implement an open access policy for scientific research funded through grants and contributions.
- f. Work toward the development of policies on digital data management for research funded through the Granting Councils.

Expected result

Canadians will have better access to publications and data related to federal science activities. They will also have more engagement opportunities and more avenues to contribute to federal science activities.

Description of results

- a. The selection process for the Chief Science Adviser candidate is completed. A decision is forthcoming.
- b. Most science-based departments and agencies have posted their lists of peer reviewed publications (2012-15) on open.canada.ca. They have also posted their inventory of datasets, including science data, on open.canada.ca. Many science-based departments and agencies have posted new or updated scientific datasets to open.canada.ca.

Guidance documents on various topics, common to science-based departments and agencies have been developed.

The [Federal Science Library](#) was launched in March 2017 as a one-stop, self-serve web portal that makes government research and resources visible to all Canadians by connecting them with the collections of seven departmental libraries. [View the news release.](#)

- c. A consultant report on public engagement was developed and shared with the science-based departments and agencies community. Some science-based departments and agencies are developing guidance and training to support scientific communications to the public. Many departments are using social media and plain language communication in order to enhance scientific communication with the public.
- d. A consultant report on metrics was developed and shared with the science-based departments and agencies community.
- e. A scoping paper was developed and shared within Innovation, Science, and Economic Development and the science-based departments and agencies community. Together, they are working on an inventory of grants and contributions that support scientific research to inform further discussion on scope.
- f. Following the release of the [Tri-Agency Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management](#) in June 2015, consultations on the development of a Tri-Agency Policy on Research Data Management began in the spring of 2017 and will continue throughout the summer with key stakeholders in research community and research ecosystem.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Next steps regarding the role of Chief Science Adviser related to federal science accessibility to June 2018 include:
 - Talks between Treasury Board and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada are occurring to implement science integrity elements in the collective agreements for federal scientists. The Chief Science Adviser will likely be asked to help

with monitoring the implementation of these agreements and any other measures to support science integrity.

- The Chief Science Adviser will be expected to promote a positive dialogue between federal scientists and academia, both in Canada and abroad, and to raise awareness of scientific issues amongst the Canadian public. As such, the Chief Science Adviser's early stakeholder engagement will need to include key decision-makers and senior scientific advisors within science-based departments and agencies, as well as key players within Canada's major research universities and institutions.

- b. Science-based departments and agencies will continue to release datasets through open.canada.ca.

Open Science considerations will be incorporated into the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's Mandatory Procedures for Publishing Open Government Resources document.

- c. Science-based departments and agencies will continue to pilot public engagement approaches including social media, webinar, and events.
- d. A draft set of metrics will be proposed to science-based departments and agencies for their review.
- e. Innovation, Science, and Economic Development and science-based departments and agencies will continue to refine the scope and expectations leading to the development of an open access policy or guidelines by June 2018.
- f. Continue with consultations within Canada and internationally (e.g., Research Data Alliance Plenary in Montréal, September 2017). Host an online consultation on the draft policy text in the fall 2017). Develop, approve and post of final policy, targeted for the spring of 2018.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Limited
- d. Substantial
- e. Limited
- f. Substantial

Additional information

Environment and Climate Change Canada launched a new science communication tool, [Science Access](#), to make S&T products (e.g. preprints of journal articles, conference presentations, etc.) openly available to external stakeholders.

Science based departments Environment and Climate Change Canada and Natural Resources Canada are two of the four Government of Canada departments providing a backstage pass to their work through the [Open by Default pilot project](#).

Following the launch of the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#) in 2015, the Granting Councils are exploring and developing compliance monitoring mechanisms, updating the frequently asked questions document, and continuing community engagement and awareness.

Canada participated in the G7 Open Science Working Group meetings in November 2016 and March 2017. The Working Group has submitted its consensus expert report to the G7. The expert report is part of the input to the September 2017 G7 Science Ministerial Meeting.

Commitment 15: Stimulate innovation through Canada's Open Data Exchange (ODX)

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario in collaboration with Canada's Open Data Exchange

Other actors involved: Communitech, Canadian Digital Media Network, OpenText, D2L, University of Waterloo

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

As governments at all levels continue to make more and more open data available to the public, it will be important to help support the private sector in extracting knowledge and value from that data to build their businesses. In order to develop new products, retain talent, and achieve prosperity, competitiveness, and productivity for Canada, the Open Data Exchange (ODX) was established in 2015 as a partnership among the private, public, and academic sectors to support the commercialization of open data by Canadian companies.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will partner with the private sector to better understand how companies are using open data, and raise awareness of the possibilities that exist for Canadian entrepreneurs to take advantage of the value of open data.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The Open Data Exchange is taking advantage of key opportunities to work collaboratively with stakeholders at all levels to increase the number of open data companies in Canada and to explore new methods for improving access and extracting value from open data.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and civic participation.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Complete a comprehensive mapping of 150 Canadian companies that are using open data to launch new products and services, create commercial and non-profit ventures, optimize their business processes, conduct research, and/or make data-driven decisions.
- b. Launch an online platform at <http://www.opendata500.com/ca> to showcase Canada's Open Data 150.
- c. Establish a national network of open data users within industry to collaborate on the development of standards and practices in support of data commercialization.
- d. Collaborate with private industry on three demonstration projects to illustrate the commercialization potential of open data in priority sectors.
- e. Incubate 15 new data-driven companies by June 2018.

Expected result

More Canadians will be using open data to launch new products and companies.

Description of results

- a. As of June 30 2017, [150 out of 150 companies identified](#) for Open Data 150.
- b. [Online platform launched](#).
- c. Continued to source companies through the Open Data 150.
Conducted a cross-Canada tour interviewing data users and data providers. Reports from the tour include: [Western Canada](#), [Central Canada](#), [Atlantic Canada](#).
Engagement through programs and services as outlined below under the "Incubate" deliverable.
- d. Three of three demonstration projects started on schedule. Scoping out a possible fourth project.
- e. 64 companies mentored through ODX Mentorship & [Concierge](#) services:
8 companies at the [Communitech Data Hub](#) are users of open data;
3 companies engaged with demonstration projects;
8 companies engaged through [ODX Ventures](#); and
5 companies engaged through [ODX Connect](#).

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Continue to promote the OD150 and seek out companies that use open data.
Use the OD150 to source companies for the [ODX Civic Challenge Series](#).
- b. N/A
- c. Continue to source companies and catalogue in the OD150.
Complete analysis of cross-Canada tour results.
- d. Complete all demonstration projects. If time and resources allow, start and complete fourth demonstration project.
- e. Continue to engage companies at all stages through the mechanisms outlined above.

Completion level

- a. Completed
- b. Completed
- c. Substantial
- d. Substantial
- e. Substantial

Additional information

- 470 people have attended ODX events
- 4 calls with ODX's national network of municipalities
- Completed [Open Data Challenge with City of Guelph](#). Issued proposals to 5 more municipalities
- [Moved into the Communitel Data Hub](#) (new home)

Commitment 16: Align open data across Canada (Open Data Canada)

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: Provinces, territories, municipalities, and Indigenous Peoples

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Currently, Canadians cannot easily find, compare or reuse data across Canadian jurisdictions. Governments at the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal levels have varying levels of open data implementation. While some governments have launched open data portals and made numerous datasets available, others do not have official open data or open government policies or initiatives. Furthermore, governments set priorities for different types of data for release, which may make it difficult for Canadians to compare data across jurisdictions. Each government may also measure and record data differently, which can make it difficult to compare data even when that data is open. The true value of open data can really be unlocked when similar, high-value data is released using consistent, standardized approaches, so that Canadians can easily compare data among departments, across geographic locations, and over time.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will expand collaboration with provincial, territorial, and municipal partners on further standardizing and harmonizing the delivery of open government data across jurisdictions.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Collaborative efforts to implement open government at all levels of government began in 2012. Building on past pan-Canadian cooperation, the Government of Canada is working with other levels of government and key stakeholders to expand collaboration across jurisdictions and develop a list of high-

value datasets that are priorities for governments to release. This work will help increase the comprehensiveness of open data available to Canadians and encourage comparability of data across different governments. In addition, it will work with one or more provincial partners to collaborate on a pilot project that will allow users to search data from multiple governments via a common portal. This pilot project will provide an opportunity to accelerate data standardization efforts and better understand the challenges and opportunities associated with federated search.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Foster the adoption of common open data principles that are consistent with the International Open Data Charter by all levels of government.
- b. Develop a list of high-value, priority datasets for release in collaboration with key jurisdictions to make it easier for Canadians to compare data across different governments.
- c. Launch an online, federated, multi-jurisdictional open data search service in partnership with one or more provinces and territories to allow Canadians to search and access data from across jurisdictions, regardless of its origin.
- d. Host a national Open Data Canada summit in 2017 to bring together federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal officials to collaborate on setting a national agenda for aligning and improving the delivery of open data across the country.

Expected result

Data and information from different levels of government will be easier for citizens to access and use.

Description of results

- a. Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat partnered with Open North (a not-for-profit organization) in the development of a Do-it-Yourself (DIY) Open Data Toolkit for Canadian municipalities. This toolkit is aimed at accelerating the implementation open data across Canada. The toolkit provides comprehensive guidelines and a step-by-step process to enable municipalities to initiate an open data program and adopt data principles aligned with the International Open Data Charter. A [blog](#) on the toolkit is available on open.canada.ca as is the [executive summary](#). The full toolkit is being prepared for publication on open.canada.ca. Its production was guided by an advisory committee consisting of fifteen Canadian municipalities, the federal government, and the International [Open Data Charter](#) group.

The Open Data Charter principles provide a common foundation for open data activities across Canada, promoting more open, accessible, comparable and timely data for all Canadians. As such, implementing the Charter principles is a key activity of the Canadian Open Government Working Group, a collaborative forum made up of representatives from provincial and territorial governments, as well as the Government of Canada. A draft work plan is available on the

group's GCCollab site.

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, along with the Government of Ontario, City of Edmonton and Open North, delivered a panel session at [the 2017 Canadian Open Data Summit](#) to promote the adoption of the principles of the Open Data Charter (notable recent adopters of the Charter include the Government of Ontario and the City of Edmonton).

- b. A draft work plan to develop a list of high-value, priority datasets for release in collaboration with key jurisdictions has been agreed upon and is available on the group's GCCollab site.
- c. A draft work plan on a cross-jurisdiction federated search service has been developed and discussed by the federal, provincial, territorial committee. The province of Alberta is leading this work in collaboration with other members of the Working Group.
- d. On the margins of the fourth Canadian Open Data Summit in Edmonton, Alberta, the Government of Canada hosted an in-person senior executive meeting of the Canadian Open Government Working Group on June 12. The meeting discussed six broad thematic areas of collaboration that form the basis of a 2017–2018 work plan and help align and strengthen open government across the country.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Discussion and further development of the DIY Toolkit will be managed via a discussion group set up on GCCollab.

As part of its work in the coming year, the Canada Open Government Working Group will work with Canadian jurisdictions to support adoption of the principles of the Charter, and to develop resources that promote effective implementation of open data initiatives. Immediate next steps include validating the current state of the adoption of the Open Data Charter across Canada, creating a shared space for collecting resources and sharing actions taken toward the adoption of the Charter as well as monitoring commitments across jurisdictions.

- b. Through the Canadian Open Government Working Group, the provinces of Quebec (Treasury Board) and Nova Scotia will be leading work to develop a tool for identifying high value datasets during data prioritization process. This will foster the release of common core and other important datasets across all jurisdictions. Immediate next steps include the review of high value datasets identification criteria across Canadian governments, definition of generic and targeted criteria for identifying high-value datasets and identification of a select core of high value data that can be considered a priority for common release across jurisdictions. This deliverable is on track to complete progress by June 2018.

- c. The provinces of Alberta, Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec have expressed an interest in being part of a pilot on federated search service with the Government of Canada. Immediate next steps include the development of a multi-party MOU, mapping of metadata and controlled vocabulary, gathering of functional specifications, creating of technical architecture as well as implementation and testing. This deliverable is currently on schedule; however, given the complexity of the pilot, including official language requirements, this deliverable is at risk of not being launched by June 2018.
- d. The pan-Canadian work plan will be finalized and made available in July 2017. The plan will lay out a set of deliverables that will further the alignment of open data and open government delivery across the country.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Limited
- c. Limited
- d. Completed

Commitment 17: Implement the Extractives Sector Transparency Measures Act

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Natural Resources Canada

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The Government of Canada remains committed to improving the transparency and accountability of the Canadian extractives sector. In its second Action Plan, legislation was introduced, the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (ESTMA), which established new reporting and transparency obligations for the Canadian extractive sector to contribute to global efforts against corruption in the extractive sector.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will implement the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (ESTMA) that requires the reporting of certain payments made to governments related to the commercial development of oil, gas, and minerals.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Canada’s extractive sector has a well-established financial reporting system, which ensures transparency and the good governance of natural resource revenues. Implementation of the ESTMA is helping to improve the transparency of payments made by extractive companies involved in the exploration and/or extraction of oil, gas, or minerals to all levels of government, both foreign and domestic. The new

reporting system complements existing reporting requirements with a view to ensuring Canada's framework is aligned with other G7 countries and is consistent with the emerging global standard.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to transparency, civic participation and accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Undertake outreach activities with reporting entities to ensure awareness and understanding of processes for publishing their reports based on a consistent template and format.
- b. Improve public access to published reports through a common online window.
- c. Seek broader alignment of ESTMA with other jurisdictions in Canada and around the world.

Expected result

Canadians will be able to access data on reportable payments made to governments in Canada and abroad.

Description of results

- a. Natural Resources Canada has held a number of information sessions and bilateral meetings on the ESTMA throughout Canada (Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, and St. John's) and via tele/video conference.

A [video](#) introducing the Act and its reporting requirements was posted on the ESTMA website. On Feb 3rd, a Natural Resources Canada [article was published in Rock to Road](#), an aggregate and roadbuilding magazine.

On June 6th, Natural Resources Canada launched a survey, shared with all ESTMA stakeholders, to better understand the issues and challenges faced by reporting entities when complying with the Act.

Over 600 inquiries on the ESTMA have been answered.

- b. As of June 30, 2017, over 600 companies have their [reports posted on the ESTMA website](#).
- c. Throughout the year, Natural Resources Canada engaged bilaterally with governments that have implemented transparency measures to share information and lessons learned.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. With the first year of reporting under the ESTMA completed, Natural Resources Canada will continue outreach and engagement with various stakeholders to seek feedback on reporting challenges, improve tools and guidance, and facilitate compliance (i.e., through additional targeted tele/web conferences, webinars and in-person sessions).

Results from the survey are currently being analyzed and will be posted later this year.

- b. Natural Resources Canada will perform ongoing reviews of the posted links to ensure ongoing access to extractive sector payment information.

Additional compliance promotion and refining tools and guidance will improve the common understanding of reporting requirements, leading to more consistent and comparable data.

- c. Natural Resources Canada will continue to collaborate and share information with other governments that have either already passed similar legislation, or who have demonstrated an interest in increasing extractive sector transparency.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial

Commitment 18: Support openness and transparency initiatives around the world

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Global Affairs Canada, the International Development Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, and Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: Open Government Partnership, International Aid Transparency Initiative, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition, Open Data for Development and associated networks

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Citizens of all nations can benefit both socially and economically from open government, regardless of who they are or where they live, but it is often harder for developing countries to access the cutting-edge digital resources or support the professional training and awareness programs that can enable open government initiatives. To ensure that the global open government movement is not restricted to the wealthiest or most technologically advanced governments, Canada continues to support peer knowledge exchange and capacity-building efforts.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will work with international partners to increase the transparency of international development funding, and to share skills and knowledge with developing countries to ensure that everyone can reap the benefits of open government.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Under Canada's first two Action Plans, steps were taken to ensure greater transparency and quality of Canada's international aid data. Canada worked with partners in the Open Data for Development

(OD4D) network to build capacity around the world for ambitious open government initiatives to benefit citizens. By expanding these initiatives, and undertaking new leadership roles in support of the Open Government Partnership and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), Canada can help ensure citizens around the world have access to government information and opportunities to engage in public affairs. This will also facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Endorse the Open Government Partnership's [Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(PDF, 36 KB\)](#), and leverage Canada's participation in the OGP to help support the declaration's commitments.
- b. Leverage Canada's role as chair of the International Aid Transparency Initiative to support international good practices on aid transparency and greater interoperability among data standards (e.g., aid, public procurement, public accounts, corporate identifiers) to enable greater accountability and improve the effectiveness of development finance.
- c. Provide training and peer-learning to at least 500 open data leaders in government and civil society in developing countries, provide technical assistance to at least 10 developing countries, increasing the quality and ambition of their open data policies, and assess how capacity-building activities affect communities.
- d. Work with international organizations and partners in developing countries to implement innovative open data projects with impact on anti-corruption, local governance, health, and education.
- e. In support of Canada's role as a partner in the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN):
 - Increase the amount of high-value, reusable agriculture and nutrition data made available to Canadians in open formats under the Government of Canada's open license; and
 - Participate in the planning of the GODAN Summit in September 2016 in order to support the global agenda for opening agriculture and nutrition data around the world.

Expected result

Governments and civil society organizations around the world will have the knowledge, tools, and expertise needed to support greater public access to open data and information, especially in relation to the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

Description of results

- a. Canada has been a vocal, visible, and active global leader in open government issues – and in the OGP in particular – for a number of years. Canada first joined the OGP in 2012, and has been a member in good standing since that time. Canada was recently elected to join the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, and will officially become a member of the Steering Committee in fall 2017. Canada will continue to promote the important linkages between the OGP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, exploring how the OGP can help countries meet their commitments to effectively implement and report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the principles of the Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Canada has embraced other principles-based open government initiatives, including taking a leading role in the international Open Data Charter. Canada remains committed to the principles of the Joint Declaration, and will seek to ensure that all progress on domestic and international implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is supported by meaningful engagement with stakeholders within and outside government, and that this progress is reported publicly to ensure strengthened accountability and greater openness.

- b. At the World Humanitarian Summit, signatories of the Grand Bargain agreed to use the IATI standard to enhance transparency (Istanbul, May 2016). The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation endorsed IATI as an open data standard for development cooperation in the outcome document of its Second High-Level Meeting (Nairobi, December 2016).

Several new members joined IATI including France, Italy, Republic of Mali, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and United Nations Environment Programme.

IATI hosted a Technical Working Group meeting in Tanzania (March 2017) where the needs of partner country stakeholders (including government officials, civil society, media) were discussed with a view to improve the IATI data standard and tools. Improvements have been made since to the D-portal.org.

Global Affairs Canada launched a new [Project Browser](#) that provides access to its IATI data in a bilingual interface.

- c. The OD4D program provided training to over 700 public servants and civil society members over the course of 2016. This included through the Open Data Leaders network, school of data fellows, and trainings for civil society provided through open data embedded fellowships. Open Data for Development's regional hubs provided technical assistance to over 7 governments in 2016, including Albania and Costa Rica.
- d. In 2016, OD4D supported 19 platforms and applications with the potential to greatly scale impact in development countries. Some examples of OD4D -supported innovations include the [Edo AgriHub in Nigeria](#), a project which involved mapping existing farms and produce to create a

repository of farmers' data that will aid decision making in government, and the PiMaa project, which worked to build local and affordable environmental sensors for Kampala, Uganda. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and the International Development and Research Centre have also worked with other Lead Stewards of the Open Data Charter to develop and launch 'open up' guides that support greater openness and transparency in sectors including agriculture, anti-corruption, and climate. These 'open up' guides provide practical help for governments wanting to use open data to support sectoral outcomes, and include information like use cases, methodologies, and relevant data standards.

- e. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada has released 58 new datasets to the [open data portal](#) since November 1, 2016.

OD4D has provided support to GODAN and Open Data Institute to launch the [Agriculture Open Data Package](#), and also supported its translation into [French](#).

OD4D offered support in the planning of the [GODAN Summit](#) in 2016 and hosted consultations on the [Agriculture Open Data Package](#).

Both Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and OD4D participated in and represented Canadian perspectives on agricultural open data at the GODAN Summit.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. As a new member of the OGP Steering Committee, Canada will act as an advocate for the OGP's fundamental values of openness, transparency, accountability, and participation. We will aim emulate these values in all of our work. We will seek to ensure that global open government efforts support greater inclusion of traditionally marginalized or under-represented people, and in particular we will amplify the voices of women and girls, who remain critically under-represented in the highest circles of public power and influence. We will also bolster global resolve to rigorously track the tangible results of their efforts, and we will encourage governments to speak about both their accomplishments and their struggles in delivering on open government.
- b. Increase access to tools and guidance to help partners publish and use IATI data, with a special attention to the needs of Francophone users.

Take initial steps to harmonize aid transparency requirements among donor agencies.

Support efforts towards aid coordination and accountability in Africa through the implementation of Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy.

Further improve the IATI data published by Global Affairs Canada, in particular with regard to project results.

- c. The IATI Secretariat and OD4D will participate in the African Open Data Conference (Ghana, July 2017).

IATI and the Open Data Institute will provide training to data publishers and users. Through the Open Data Institute, OD4D will provide training to governments and establish an African peer-

network of government leaders.

OD4D capacity building activities will continue and increase its focus on low-income countries. In Haiti, we will work closely with women on developing data skills for employment.

In addition to existing peer-networks in Latin America and East Europe, OD4D will help to set up a regional peer-network in Africa, which will support at least 10 countries in Africa with training and technical assistance

- d. The first African Francophone open data conference resulted in action plan, which included priorities and innovation which shall be supported by the new OD4D hub for the region. OD4D will prioritize support to innovation for gender equality and gender transformation. For instance, in Latin America, we will work with OAS and governments in the region to help prevent and eliminate violence against women, catalysing actions to collect reliable data on domestic violence and women's homicides.
- e. Agriculture and Agri-food Canada will continue to release high-value reusable agriculture and nutrition data to the Open data portal.

They will also partner with GODAN to organize a session on farmers sharing their data with scientists at a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations conference in the fall 2017.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial
- d. Substantial
- e. Substantial

Additional information

Through OD4D, the International Development Research Centre co-hosted the [International Open Data Conference](#) in October 2016 and capacity building pre-events, including the [Open Data Leaders' Summit](#), the second [Open Data Research Symposium](#) and [School of Data](#).

Commitment 19: Engage civil society on open government

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: Civil society partners

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The participation of both civil society and government is essential to the success of any open government initiative. On the recommendation of the Open Government Partnership, the Government

of Canada will establish a permanent mechanism for improving meaningful public dialogue, to move beyond informing and consulting to enhanced citizen collaboration and empowerment.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will create ongoing mechanisms for strengthening dialogue with civil society in support of open government activities.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Canada initially established a multi-stakeholder advisory panel to support development and implementation of Canada's first two Action Plans. Canada is committed to cultivating an effective relationship with civil society by designing and nurturing a renewed mechanism to support constructive, ongoing dialogue between government and non-government stakeholders. Led by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, this renewed mechanism will establish a strong link between government and civil society. It will engage regularly to track progress on Canada's commitments, identify potential new areas of focus, and help raise awareness of open government issues across Canada.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency, civic participation and public accountability.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Develop and maintain a renewed mechanism for ongoing, meaningful dialogue between the Government of Canada and civil society organizations on open government issues across the country.
- b. Undertake targeted engagement activities to discuss open government issues in specific domains with key civil society stakeholders.

Expected result

Civil society will be able to access a formal mechanism for regular, two-way conversation on open government issues with the federal government.

Description of results

- a. The open government team and its Canadian civil society network counterparts have arrived at an agreement around draft terms of reference to establish a permanent mechanism for ongoing dialogue.
- b. Targeted engagement activities to discuss open government issues in specific domains with key civil society stakeholders undertaken include:
 - i. As noted in the Commitment 20 update, civic tech and public engagement practitioners have been engaged in the work to build an online eco-system of tools for citizens and government to engage.

- ii. The Commitment 22 update describes online and in-person consultations held by the Canada Revenue Agency on the rules governing charities' political activities completed in December 2016.
- iii. The Canada Revenue Agency also conducted "[Serving You Better](#)" consultations with small and medium businesses and accountants in December 2016.
- iv. The Open Data Exchange launched [Cross Canada Tour](#) in February 2017 to find out what is working and what is not working when it comes to getting open data into the hands of open data users, especially the private sector. Open Data Exchange visited centres across the country to better understand their perspectives. Reports were created for each leg of the [Tour](#).

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Member selection (both government and civil society) will be completed over the summer. The Forum will then co-develop a work plan for the group.

Anticipated Forum deliverables include the shared development and delivery of public consultations for ideas and commitments for inclusion in the Fourth Biennial Plan to the Open Government Partnership - 2018-20.

- b. Next steps include:
 - i. Create and test more methods and tools to enable online engagement, and share results.
 - ii. Official Government response to the Consultation Panel's report will be issued to help inform regulation of charities going forward.
 - iii. Work on deliverables identified in the June 2017 consultation report to improve services for small and medium businesses through to 2019.
 - iv. Results are being compiled with a blueprint for action expected to be issued before fall 2017.

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial

Commitment 20: Enable open dialogue and open policy making

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Privy Council Office; Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Other actors involved: Public servants, public engagement practitioners, civil society, civic tech, citizens

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Public engagement through open dialogue and participatory processes is vital to the success of government. The Government of Canada recognizes that informed decision making requires the knowledge, views, values and skills of experts, stakeholders, and citizens to inform and shape effective government policies, programs, and services. Consultation provides participants an opportunity to state how an issue affects them, identify underlying values and contribute to shared outcomes.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will foster enhanced citizen participation through greater collaboration and co-creation with the public and stakeholders within and across government initiatives.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Through this open dialogue commitment, the Government will engage citizens, stakeholders, and other governments, to participate in well-designed processes that create space for deliberation and collaboration of the participants involved. The Government of Canada will adopt common principles, clarify needs and implement tools and guidance to foster greater collaboration across traditional organizational boundaries.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment is related to the OGP value of civic participation.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Promote common principles for Open Dialogue and common practices across the Government of Canada to enable the use of new methods for consulting and engaging Canadians.
 - Engage with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to ensure that these principles and practices support meaningful engagement and reflect the renewed nation-to-nation/Inuit-to-Crown/government-to-government relationships.
- b. Identify necessary supports (e.g. skills development, resourcing, technological innovation) needed to deliver on the full potential of engaging with stakeholders.
- c. Identify and support participatory processes undertaken by departments to share lessons learned and demonstrate the value of including stakeholders and members of the public throughout the policy, program or service design and implementation.
- d. Develop, implement the measurement of, and promote indicators for open government to support benchmarking and continuous improvement.

Expected result

The Government will be better equipped to engage and collaborate with stakeholders and citizens on government priorities, policies, programs and services.

Description of results

- a. Workshops to co-develop principles and discover possible measurement approaches were held at the Canadian Open Dialogue Forum and at GovMaker 2016 in Fredericton. Draft principles are [available online](#).

Workshops have been held with public servants to develop intercultural competencies that contribute to the knowledge needed to meaningfully engage with Indigenous Peoples. This is one of many efforts underway to respond to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action](#) (#57) that public servants learn about the history of Canada's Indigenous Peoples.

Preliminary work has begun on engaging Indigenous Peoples on data including hosting a workshop with Indigenous thought leaders entitled, "Indigenous Perspectives on Open Data" and facilitating Indigenous participation at the Canadian Open Data Summit.

- b. **Technological innovation**

The Government of Canada has begun collaborating with civic tech and public engagement practitioners to co-create an eco-system of tools for citizens and government to engage online. At the [Canadian Open Data Summit](#) in Edmonton and [Civic Tech Ottawa](#) workshops in June 2017, citizens, public servants, developers and designers discussed the conditions under which they might contribute their knowledge and skills to this ecosystem.

Prototyped the use of open source for more user centric and effective consultation, and learned about internal barriers to developing engagement tools – an eRegulations pilot (notice and comment on regulations online – Canada Gazette Part I) in collaboration with the Community of Federal Regulators.

Usability tested the interface for online consultations, to inform improvements to [Consulting with Canadians](#).

Skills development for public servants

Developed and delivered public engagement learning opportunities, including five 1-day training sessions for 135 participants within 4 months, with 2 train-the-trainers sessions to build learning sustainability in the federal public service.

- c. Collected baseline measures to inform measurement framework for engagement, e.g. Public Opinion Research on citizen engagement.

Contributed to open repositories of data, methods and tools, e.g. releasing citizen input as open data (examples include [Open Government](#) and [National Security](#) consultations).

- d. Open government indicators have been developed and targets are being measured to support meaningful change and to track the impact of advancing open government in the Government of Canada. Additionally, work across Canadian jurisdictions is taking place to collaborate on developing a performance measurement framework for open government, with clear indicators that could be applicable to all Canadian jurisdictions (see Commitment 5).

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Implement principles in practice through Government of Canada engagement; publish principles on the Government of Canada's Open Government web site.

Collaborate with public servants from other levels of government, public engagement practitioners and others on making available guidance and supports that enable practitioners to engage effectively with citizens.

Make available Government of Canada policy supporting principled engagement with citizens and greater collaboration.

Identify engagement tools and practices that support and reflect a renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples based on rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.
Deepen engagement and collaboration with Indigenous thought leaders on data.

- b. [Surface](#), pilot and test more methods and tools to enable online engagement, and document the conditions for success – for example, run another eRegulations pilot to learn about processes for public servants to efficiently analyze large volumes of data, while increasing the transparency of the process (making all comments available online).

Build on content collaboratively and expand learning opportunities and skills development for public engagement at working to executive levels, considering partnerships with other levels of government to hold a Skills Symposium in Ottawa.

- c. Implement common measures and continue to build an evidence base and for engagement based on [principles](#), to support citizen engagement within a transparent policy lifecycle. Collect and share case and stories publicly, including with the [Open Government Partnership](#).
- d. Measure and report publicly on results of engaging Canadians.

Completion level

- a. Limited
- b. Substantial

- c. Limited
- d. Substantial

Commitment 21: Promote open government globally

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Global Affairs Canada; Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat; the International Development Research Centre

Other actors involved: Open Government Partnership, Open Data Charter, La Francophonie

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

The world is witnessing a global transformation, fueled by citizens' desire to better understand how their governments make decisions and develop policy. At the same time, there are growing global trends of citizen distrust, shrinking civic space, and elite capture. At the OGP Global Summit in Paris in December 2016, officials from around the world acknowledged that, recognizing these global trends, the future of democracy itself is at stake.

The global open government movement can be a countervailing force to these disturbing trends by promoting the rule of law, reducing corruption, promoting public access to information, and developing effective and accountable institutions. The Government is committed to working with international partners in government, civil society, private sector, and academia to support the principles of openness and transparency around the world.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will work with international partners to promote the principles of open government around the world.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

Canada is undertaking leadership roles in the global open government community, supporting the International Open Data Charter and the Open Government Partnership, and fostering new strategic partnerships through organizations like the [International Organisation of La Francophonie](#). By working collaboratively with international partners to promote common, global principles of open government, Canada can cement its role as a world leader in openness and transparency.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP value of transparency.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- a. Participate in key forums internationally to learn from other countries and share our challenges and successes.
- b. Strengthen the capacity to deliver open data in Francophone Africa through support to locally-led, multi-stakeholder processes and international conferences.
- c. Promote the principles of the International Open Data Charter, participate in the development of enabling resources and tools for the Charter, and support the development of the World Wide Web Foundation's Open Data Barometer through the Open Data for Development network to measure the Charter's implementation by governments around the world.

Expected result

Canada will be recognized as a global leader in openness and transparency. It will foster greater adoption and implementation of global principles of open data.

Description of results

- a. The Government of Canada has participated in several international forums over the past year to build capacity and advance understanding around open government, including numerous events with international partners and counterparts, including through the Open Government Partnership, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Inter-American Development Bank. Specific events include:
 - Officials in the International Development Research Centre, working as part of the Open Data for Development program, co-hosted the fourth [International Open Data Conference](#) in Madrid in October 2016. The conference convened over 1,700 participants from around the world.
 - At the most recent OGP Global Summit in Paris in December 2016, the Honourable Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board of Canada, led Canada's delegation and participated in a number of panel discussions to share Canada's experiences, successes, and lessons learned in open government.
 - The Summit also provided a venue for OD4D to workshop the draft [International Open Data Roadmap](#) report. This report was then [launched at the UN World Data Forum](#) in Cape Town in January 2017.
 - On the margins of the OGP Summit in Paris, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat officials also participated in the [Academic Days conference](#), which brought together students and professors from post-secondary institutions across Europe and around the world to discuss open government issues and reflect on the ways academic research can support greater accountability and openness.
 - Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat officials have also participated in multilateral organizations and working groups focused on open government issues. This includes:
 - Work through the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and its experts groups focused on open government data and open government principles and indicators. In November 2016, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat officials participated in an OECD-led peer learning mission,

travelling to Costa Rica to share Canada's experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of open government.

- Participation in the Open Data Africa Conference in Accra, Ghana, which convened tech industries, small businesses, journalists, entrepreneurs, researchers, NGOs, and local and national governments to share advances in open data, share lessons, and form new partnerships and collaborations.

- b. The Open Data for Development program co-hosted the first "[Conférence d'Afrique Francophone sur les Données Ouvertes](#)" to convene open data stakeholders in the region, and to kick-start planning for a Francophone Africa open data hub. The Open Data Barometer was made available in French for the first time.
- c. The Open Data for Development program supported the 2016 Open Data Barometer. The Open Data Barometer is used by policy makers, as well as advocates worldwide, and in a continuously increasing number of countries. Several governments are already using it to benchmark their open data performance and set targets. The regional Open Data Barometer nodes helped to collect the data, and developed regional reports.

Canada is a Lead Steward of the Open Data Charter, and Chair of the Charter's Implementation Working Group. In this role, Canada has developed key resources to support more effective implementation of Charter principles among adopting governments. Canada has also worked with partners in government and civil society around the world to identify existing resources that can reinforce Charter implementation.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. Canada will chair the next International Aid Transparency Initiative Members' Assembly where stakeholders will share their experience and discuss joint solutions to improve the availability and use of open aid data.

Canada was recently elected to join the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee, and will officially become a member of the Steering Committee in fall 2017. Canada will leverage this new leadership role to support peer learning and exchange on key priorities, including the empowerment of women and girls, greater focus on citizen-centred governance, and strengthening diversity and inclusivity in the OGP.

- b. The Open Data for Development will be launching a call for a Francophone Africa host institution to be the hub for the region.

Canada will seek opportunities to collaborate with partners to improve capacity for open data in Francophone Africa.

- c. Further dissemination in national and regional events, engaging governments in how to improve their open data policies and harness greater use and impact.

Canada will continue to work with Charter Lead Stewards to launch newly-developed resources supporting the implementation of Charter principles, including annotated Charter text, key definitions, and a roadmap for adoption and early implementation. Canada will also formalize its adoption of the Open Data Charter, and will aim to reflect the principles in the Charter in the development of Canada's next OGP National Action Plan (2018-2020).

Completion level

- a. Substantial
- b. Substantial
- c. Substantial

Commitment 22: Engage Canadians to improve key Canada Revenue Agency services

Overall status: on schedule

Lead implementing department(s): Canada Revenue Agency

Other actors involved: N/A

Reporting period: Mid-term (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

Commitment description

What is the public problem that the commitment will address?

Service excellence is a top priority for the Canada Revenue Agency, and the agency is committed to ensuring high-quality services are delivered to Canadians in a way that makes them feel respected and valued.

What is the commitment?

The Government of Canada will undertake public consultations and engagement to support improved access to high-value, statistical tax data and publications, increased fairness of the rules governing charities' political activities, and better understanding of factors affecting the low rates of benefit uptake.

How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?

The Canada Revenue Agency is undertaking a number of key public consultation and engagement activities to respond to key challenges:

- The Canada Revenue Agency currently publishes open data in various categories both on its website and on Canada's Open Data portal. A better understanding of the public's satisfaction with, and interest in, statistical tax publications and related data, is needed to meet the growing demand for data that is of value to Canadians.

- The Canada Revenue Agency has committed to providing more information on the regulation of charities to the public in a timely manner and to ensuring the engagement of the charitable sector in support of rules that are fair, open, and easily accessible and understood.
- Each year a number of Indigenous Canadians miss out on potential tax benefits. Through consultation, new data, and collaboration with other government departments and stakeholders the Canada Revenue Agency is seeking to empower Indigenous Canadians to obtain the tax benefits to which they are entitled.

Relevance to OGP values

This commitment relates to the OGP values of transparency and civic participation.

Status update

Deliverables in Action Plan

- Complete an online consultation with Canadians to measure public satisfaction with, and interest in, statistical tax publications and related data.
- Engage with registered charities, the public, and other stakeholders in the charitable sector to help clarify rules governing charities' political activities:
 - Conduct online and in-person consultations sessions on what information is needed, what form any future rules should take, and how best to communicate them to stakeholders and the general public.
- Engage with Indigenous Canadians to better understand the issues, root causes, and data gaps that may be preventing eligible individuals from accessing benefits.

Expected results

Canadians will be more satisfied with publicly available statistical tax publications and related data. Charities will have clear rules regarding political activities. Through consultations, Indigenous Canadians and vulnerable communities will be empowered to obtain the tax benefits to which they are entitled

Description of results

- A [survey](#) on how to improve access to high-value, statistical tax data and publications was posted online in August 2016. The online survey has generated insufficient data to date due to very low take-up. As a result, to promote a better response rate, steps have been taken that include a new user friendly format along with the introduction of pop-up windows.
- [Online](#) and in-person consultations of the rules governing charities' political activities completed in December 2016. Over the consultation period, the Canada Revenue Agency received almost 20,000 written submissions from charities and individuals, and met with 167 representatives from the charitable sector. A Consultation Panel reviewed the consultation feedback and presented a [report](#) to the Minister of National Revenue at the end of March 2017.
- Public opinion research with Indigenous communities was conducted between February and May 2017 to better understand factors affecting benefit uptake.

Public opinion research with vulnerable populations (including urban Indigenous Canadians) was conducted in March 2017 to better understand factors affecting benefit uptake.

Next steps to June 2018

- a. The take-up of the re-positioned survey will be evaluated over a three month period after the upcoming transition to Canada.ca to gauge if other data collection methods are needed.
- b. The Government is reviewing the Consultation Panel's report to help inform its regulation of charities going forward. The Government plans to officially respond to the report.
- c. The Canada Revenue Agency will establish a special project team, including representatives from other departments, to review the findings from these studies and other research projects conducted in 2016-17 (e.g., work with Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada to estimate tax filing and benefit uptake rates) and it will develop next steps regarding how to apply the research findings. The project team will include a sub-committee on communications to develop a communications strategy and plan for release of the research findings and engagement with external groups.

Completion level

- a. Limited
- b. Completed
- c. Completed

Additional information

"Serving You Better" consultations with small and medium businesses and accountants to better understand their needs were completed in December 2016. The Canada Revenue Agency heard from participants across Canada, and the consultations generated over 1,500 comments and suggestions that will help improve services for businesses. In response, the Canada Revenue Agency published a [report](#) in June 2017 that outlines clear deliverables to improve services for small and medium businesses through to 2019.