



JUN 13 2014

Ms. Linda Frey  
Executive Director  
Open Government Partnership Support Unit  
1889 F Street NW, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
United States

Dear Ms. Frey:

As the official leading Canada's Action Plan on Open Government initiative, I am very pleased to submit Canada's candidacy for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee. Canada has been a proud and active member of the OGP since April 2012. Moving forward, we hope to have the opportunity to take on a more important role in working with the OGP to bring governments and civil society together to advance the principles of accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement around the world.

Canada has long held the belief that transparency is a cornerstone of a strong, modern democracy that promotes accountability and the trust of citizens in their government. Canada was one of the first countries to adopt federal access to information legislation, and continues to make improvements to its regime of open and proactive disclosure of information to allow Canadians and Parliament to better hold the Government and public sector officials accountable.

Federal departments and agencies have been working diligently to expand and accelerate the availability of high-value open data and information, support broader dialogue with Canadians, and improve information services to enhance the public's capacity to engage and participate more fully in the development and delivery of government programs and policies.

### **Canada and the Open Government Partnership (OGP)**

Canada was pleased to join the OGP as a member of the Partnership's 2nd cohort. The OGP's Declaration of Principles aligns closely with Canadian open government efforts, and our membership in the OGP has provided key opportunities to advance the OGP principles.

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Minister Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board, has been a strong and vocal champion for open government in Canada. He represented Canada at the first OGP Summit in April 2012, where he tabled Canada's first Action Plan on Open Government (<http://data.gc.ca/eng/canadas-action-plan-open-government>). Under this plan, Canada has made significant progress in broadening the availability of open data and information, and established a strong foundation on which future open government activities can be built.

In the last year, Canada was happy to accept the invitation to serve as government anchor for the OGP Working Group on Open Data. We look forward to continuing to focus the collective efforts of OGP countries and civil society members on defining shared principles for open data, exploring how to measure the impact of open data, identifying common standards, and building capacity to support effective open data delivery. Canada has also worked to advance open government efforts internationally by collaborating with the United Kingdom and our other G8 partners on the establishment of the G8 Open Data Charter in June 2013. This charter has great potential for broader adoption around the world.

### **Canada's Potential Contribution to the OGP Steering Committee**

Like many of our OGP colleagues, Canada recognizes the potential for improving open government services through national and sub-national collaboration. As a country comprised of multiple levels of government with constitutionally protected roles and responsibilities, we have a strong track record of working collaboratively on common solutions to shared challenges across jurisdictions. Canada sees great opportunity in helping governments that have already adopted OGP principles at a national level to work with their sub-national counterparts to further enrich their citizens' access to seamless government data, information and dialogue.

For this reason we believe we can contribute a great deal in this area. Last year, Canada's Open Government Licence (<http://data.gc.ca/eng/open-government-licence-canada>) was launched as a single, common licence for all levels of government to remove barriers to the reuse of published government data and information from multiple jurisdictions. This licence was developed jointly by multiple levels of government, and has already been adopted not only by the Government of Canada but also by several provincial governments, as well as municipalities across the country.

At the OGP Summit in October 2013, we announced plans to further increase, integrate, and streamline access to information and data across all levels of government in Canada through the development of common standards, licensing, and platforms. By harmonizing and aligning a diverse range of government activity across Canada, we will deliver a “no wrong door” approach to government information that will spur innovation, increase productivity, and improve the lives of Canadians. These efforts will be further detailed in our second Action Plan on Open Government, along with a variety of other commitments to innovative open government initiatives, to be released later this year.

In conclusion, Canada would welcome the opportunity to further advance these and other ideas, and would be pleased to continue to dedicate time, effort, and resources to participating in OGP events and meetings, providing support to other OGP countries, raising the profile of the OGP, and working with Steering Committee colleagues to set direction for the OGP. As the federal minister responsible for open government, Minister Clement would be Canada’s representative on the Steering Committee, with the support of Treasury Board Secretariat staff, including myself ([stephen.walker@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.walker@tbs-sct.gc.ca)). We hope that OGP member countries will strongly consider Canada for this important role.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Walker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen Walker,  
Lead for Open Government,  
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat