

With the exception of open data and mandatory reporting on extractives, Canada's recent commitments have had marginal effects on open government practices. However, public consultations have improved and as the incoming co-chair of OGP, there are hopes that Canada will lead by example and assume stronger and more ambitious commitments going forward.

NOTEWORTHY COMMITMENTS

OPEN DATA CORE

A range of activities including expanding the release of open data, developing a central open data portal, and adopting the IATI data standard.

OPEN SCIENCE

Improve access to scientific information through an Open Science Implementation Plan, online search services, and data inventories.

MANDATORY REPORTING ON EXTRACTIVES

Implement the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act, requiring companies to disclose payments made to governments.



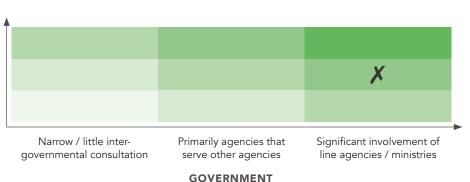
The development of Canada's action plans initially lacked both sufficient notice of consultations and the circulation of a draft. The process has improved over time, but problems remain. For example, the development of the third plan was heavily dominated by government voices. However, Canada has published an outline for the fourth action plan that includes a new Multi-stakeholder Forum, which should significantly expand civil society's role. The figures below show who was involved in the development of the third action plan, as well as the level of public influence in the first two plans.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

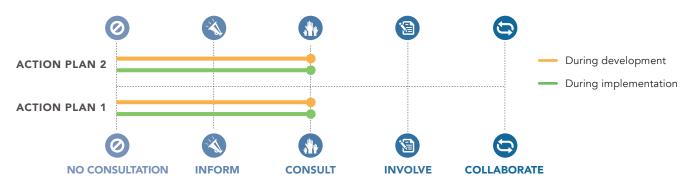
Beyond "governance" civil society

Mostly "governance" civil society

No/little civil society involvement



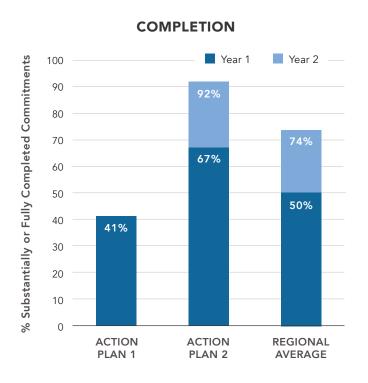
LEVEL OF PUBLIC INFLUENCE?



2

Commitment Performance

Canada's implementation standards have been generally strong compared to the regional averages, and this has continued through to the third action plan. The breadth of the action plans is also noteworthy. The latest plan covers a wide variety of subthemes within the open government basket, and addresses many major priorities to some extent. The figures below show the levels of completion and ambition of the first two action plans, as well as how they compare to the regional average of the most recent round of action plans.





♥ STARRED -- COMMITMENTS

ACTION PLAN 1-----

ACTION PLAN 2

BEST PERFORMER IN REGION







(3) Recommendations

1 IMPROVE CONSULTATIONS

Canada's next action plan should be developed in a more consultative manner, following robust cocreation standards.

FUND OGP COMMITMENTS

OGP in Canada requires that the government allocate specific resources for the implementation of commitments.

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Canada can work with the First Nations to develop mutual commitments for improving openness, engagement and transparency.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION REFORM

In response to a recurring demand from civil society, Canada should commit to robust improvements to the Access to Information Act.

IMPROVE OPEN DATA

Harness Canada's open data expertise to craft solutions to accessibility which integrate, rather than consolidate, information databases.