

Open Government in Canada

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open.canada.ca

OPEN
GOVERNMENT



Open Data

Open Information

Open Dialogue

OPEN GOVERNMENT JOURNEY IN CANADA

Launch of data.gc.ca (pilot)

2011

Launch of data.gc.ca
(operational)

2013

Consolidated open data, open
information and open map in
one single entry point
3rd NAP

2016

Co-chair OGP Steering
Committee
4th NAP

2018

2012

Canada joined the Open
Government Partnership (OGP)
1st National Action Plan (NAP)

2014

Launched of open.canada.ca
and started to use open source
tool – Drupal and CKAN
2nd NAP

2017

Launch of the open by default
pilot portal
Elected on the OGP Steering
Committee

2019

OGP Global Summit in Ottawa

PLAN OF THE PRESENTATION

1. How do we define open government in Canada?
2. Risks and opportunities of opening government
3. Foundation of open government in Canada
4. Canada's National Action Plans
5. Open government is a work in progress...

What is Open Government ?

The OECD defines open government as

“a culture of governance based on innovative and sustainable public policies and practices inspired by the principles of **transparency, accountability and participation** that fosters democracy and inclusive growth.”

Open Government is also a global movement

- The Open Government Partnership (OGP) was founded in 2011 and now has 79 members
 - It is the leading, global multilateral organization focussed on open government
 - In May 2019, Canada hosted the Global Open Government Partnership Summit, which brought together 2,600 participants from 115 countries for an interactive dialogue on open government
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is increasingly focussing on open government analysis and comparative assessments, to which Canada contributes
- The European Commission publishes an annual report on its members' progress on open data

Why?

RISKS OF CONTINUING WITH THE STATUS QUO

Lagged adaptation

- Continued slow adoption rate of necessary changes

Policy, program and operational failures

- Bureaucracy is shielded from new data sources, expertise and production models

Human Resources challenges

- Closed, siloed and hierarchical management models hinder recruitment and retention of talented employees

Breaches of democratic legitimacy

- Exacerbates lack of confidence in the government.
- Suggests to citizen that government is out of touch, ineffective and irrelevant

* As per Amanda Clark in her book *Opening the Government of Canada*

CHALLENGES AND RISKS OF BEING OPEN

Open by default

- Policy development processes and traditional accountabilities are sometimes at odds with co-creation or 'open by default' approach to policy-making.

Analysis and advice

- Concerns that transparency could lead to watering down of analysis and advice.

Measuring impact

- Struggling to identify rigorous methods for accurately measuring the social and economic benefits of open government

Spotlight on public servants

- Individual public servants are increasingly visible through social media, which has an impact on accountability structures

How?

FOUNDATIONS OF OPEN GOVERNMENT IN CANADA



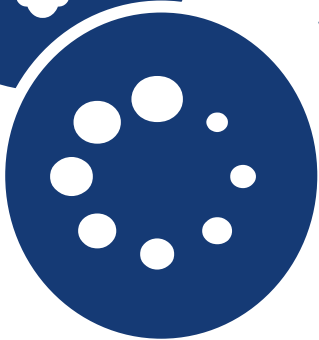
Open Government Directive

Open-by-default and open government requirements are embedded in our Open Government Directive



Support across government

Implementation is a collaborative effort across government (departmental open government coordinators, open government working group and executive-level committees)



Openness through governance

Open by default and open government are also reflected through our governance framework and standards such as Ministerial Mandate Letters, Digital Standards, and Canada's National Data Strategy Roadmap.

Canada's Open Government Portal (open.canada.ca)

Canada's Open Government Portal (open.canada.ca)

- Canada's Open Government Portal was launched in 2011 and is a **one-stop shop** for open information and data
- The portal is built using **open source tools** and the code is freely shared for re-use
- Contains open data, open information, and proactive disclosure from over **149 federal institutions** and receives **150,000** visits on average every month.
- The portal contains:
 - ✓ over **82,000 open datasets** and over **800 open information** records
- The portal also includes proactive disclosure, including:
 - ✓ **over 1.2M proactive disclosure records**, spread **over 10 categories**, such as access to information (ATI) summaries, contracts, grants and contributions, travel and hospitality
- The portal also hosts summaries of previously-released Access to Information requests which can be searched by keywords, topics or fields of interests
 - This provides a mechanism for citizens to make **informal requests for records**

Key Information on the Open Government Portal

Canada's **Open Government Portal**

(open.Canada.ca) serves as the centralized one-stop access to government data

- **Federated open data search** with the Government of Alberta
- Connection with users through **impact stories & suggest a dataset** feature
- Built using open source tools and code freely shared



Number of Datasets:
Over 82,000

Number of user sessions in
2019:
Over 1,100,000



Number of Proactive
Disclosure Reports
(combined):
Over 1,200,000

Number of open data
downloads in 2019:
Over 460,000



Functionalities and info
architecture being refreshed
through user design

OPEN GOVERNMENT PORTAL

Open Data

Search open data that is relevant to Canadians, learn how to work with datasets, and see what people have done with open data across the country.

Follow:



Search through our Open data portal.

Browse by subject



[Agriculture](#)



[Arts, Music,
Literature](#)



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OPEN GOVERNMENT PORTAL

Open Information

The goal of Open information is to provide easy access to all of the Government of Canada's information. This provides Canadians with greater transparency of government programs, activities, publications and spending.

Follow:



Search through our Open Information Portal.

[Search through our open information portal](#)

Explore our open information portal which provides access to digital information resources. Let us know what you think by [contacting us](#).

[Access to information](#)

Learn more about the Canada's Access to Information (ATI) legislation, search through completed ATI summaries, and make an informal ATI request.

[Government-wide reporting](#)

Search through the expenditure database, Quarterly Financial Reports and other information the Government of Canada proactively discloses to ensure that Canadians and Parliament are better able to hold the Government to account.

[Proactive disclosure](#)

Browse reports that have been

[Open by Default Pilot](#)

Explore working documents provided

[Government Service Strategy](#)

Learn more about the Government of

ENGAGEMENT CYCLE FOR THE DESIGN OF OUR NATIONAL ACTION PLANS



ENGAGING WITH THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM

- OGP’s consultation requirements ask countries to “identify an existing or new forum to enable regular multi-stakeholder consultation on OGP implementation.”
- The majority of OGP countries by now fulfill this requirement.
- The **Multi-stakeholder Forum (MSF)** in Canada was launched in 2018, and consists of 4 members from the government of Canada and 8 members from the civil society, whose mandate is to:
 - Provide input and advice on Canada’s commitments on open government
 - Identify new areas of focus
 - Promote open government across Canada
- It is an OGP best practice, providing a mechanism with which to promote civil society engagement and oversight.

CANADA'S 2018-20 NATIONAL ACTION PLAN



User-friendly open government



Financial transparency and accountability



Corporate transparency



Digital government and services



Open science



Healthy democracy



Access to information



Feminist and inclusive dialogue



Reconciliation and open government



Open government community

INDEPENDENT REVIEW MECHANISM REPORT

1

Adopt a challenge/issue/problem-based approach to drafting future commitments and develop clear milestones built around specific economic, environmental, political, and/or social problems

2

Delineate between short- and longer-term commitment co-creation and implementation timelines

3

Consolidate the MSF's role, and expand its reach directly into lead departments and agencies

4

Earmark specific resources for the implementation of OGP commitments

5

Implement a results-based approach to action plan design and implementation

CANADA'S ONGOING WORK IN OPEN GOVERNMENT

- **At the federal level**
 - **Mainstreaming** open government
 - Applying an open government lens the help **solve challenges** and support better governance through transparency, accountability and citizen participation
 - Enabling a “**publish with a purpose**” approach to open data
 - Upgrading the open government portal, including **open data user stories**
- **With provinces and territories (Local governments):**
 - Multi-jurisdictional **collaboration** and advancement of common pan-Canadian open government priorities

ACCESS TO INFORMATION NEW LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- In June 2019, Canada adopted Bill- C-58, which **amended the Access to Information Act in place since 1983.**
- **New proactive publication requirements** are now included in the Act and provide an unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability:
 - More frequent publication of travel and hospitality, grants and contributions, and contract information.
 - More than 8,000 **titles of memoranda** to deputy ministers and ministers have been published online.
 - In January 2020, institutions began publishing ministerial **Question Period note**, with a total of 725 published to date.
 - **Ministerial transition binders** and **Parliamentary committee appearance binders** will also be available on the portal.

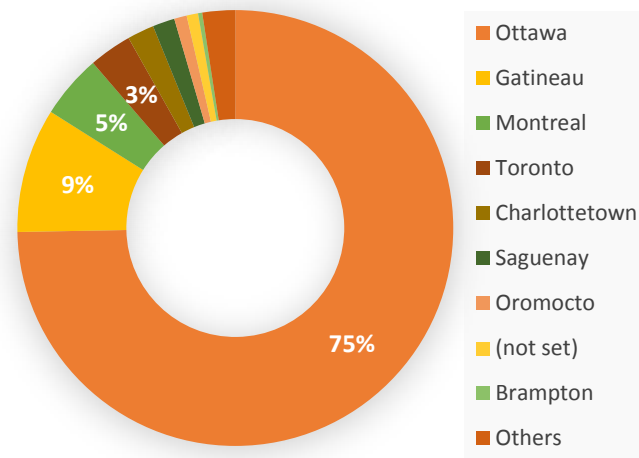
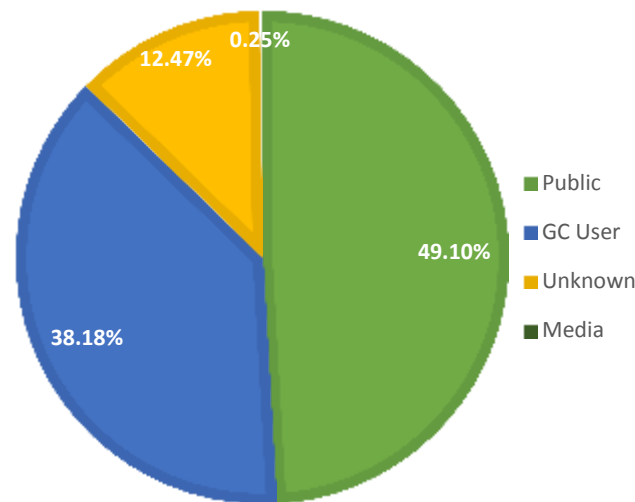
Question Period Notes - Content and Analytics Overview

QP Notes- Key Metrics

725 QP Notes	25 Departments	202 Dataset downloads	7,127 total web pageviews
6,497 Search pageviews - EN	630 Search pageviews - FR	316 Dataset pageviews	

QP Notes - Overview

- Launched publically 12 Jan 2020.
- Featured in Global News Monday morning after launch. 147 distinct users clicked through to the QP Notes search from the article.



QP Search: <https://search.open.canada.ca/en/qp/>

QP Dataset: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/ecd1a913-47da-47fc-8f96-2432be420986>

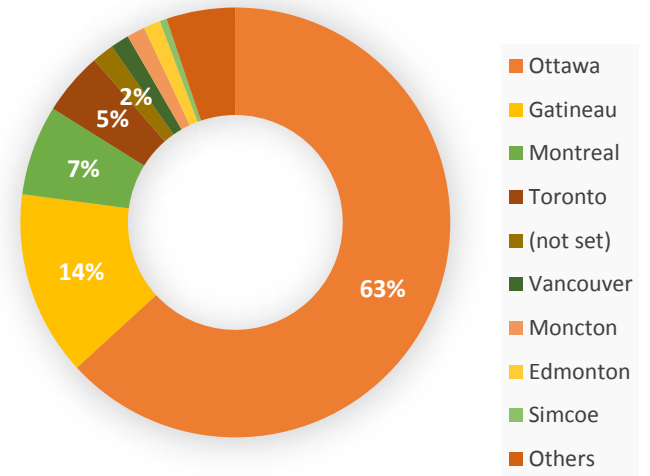
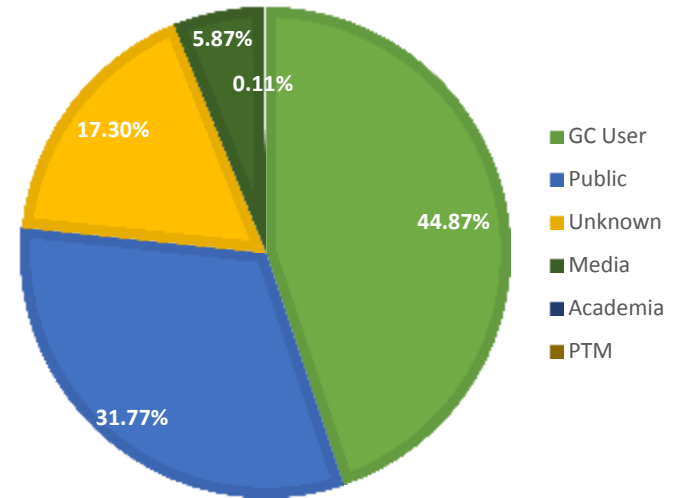
Briefing Note Titles - Content and Analytics Overview

BN - Key Metrics

11,500 BN Titles	74 Departments	630 Dataset downloads	39,150 total web pageviews
31,300 Search pageviews - EN	2,950 Search pageviews - FR	1,210 Dataset pageviews	10% of BN Titles are fully or partially redacted

BN - Overview

- Launched publically in June 2019.
- Requires publication of Titles, Numbers, Action Requested, and Addressee of BNs to Ministers and Deputy Heads.



BN Search: <https://search.open.canada.ca/en/bn/>

BN Dataset: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/ee9bd7e8-90a5-45db-9287-85c8cf3589b6>

Questions?



Stay in touch!



- **Visit** our website Open.Canada.ca and subscribe to our mailing list.
 - **Email us at** open-ouvert@tbs-sct.gc.ca.
- **Follow us** on Twitter [@OpenGovCan](https://twitter.com/OpenGovCan) and **tweet** with **#opengovcan**.