

Lexicon

Open Government

- An open government is a governing culture that fosters greater openness and accountability, enhances citizen participation in policymaking and service design, facilitates innovation, and creates a more cost-effective, efficient and responsive government.

Open by Default

- The open by default principle mandates that data or information should be open and available for the public to find, access and use, unless there is a specific, pressing reason why that data or information cannot be made open, and that reason is clearly communicated to the public. For the purposes of the Open by Default Pilot, this term refers to items that are in working drafts, meaning they are not final versions and will likely not meet the official languages or accessibility requirements.

Open Government Partnership (OGP)

- The OGP is a multilateral initiative established in 2011 that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. To become a member of the OGP, participating countries must endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration, deliver a country action plan developed with public consultation, and commit to independent reporting on their progress. Canada indicated interest in joining the OGP in 2011 and formally became a member in 2012 with its first Open Government Plan.

National Action Plan on Open Government

- To become a member of the OGP, participating countries must deliver an Open Government Plan outlining commitments to make their governments more open and accountable. The National Action Plan on Open Government is an international commitment to making the Government of Canada more transparent and accountable. It also gives Canadians the chance to take part in how government makes decisions. To remain a member of the Open Government Partnership, member countries must publish a National Action Plan on Open Government every 2-4 years. Since joining the Open Government Partnership in 2012, Canada has published five National Action Plans on Open Government.

Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Open Government

- The Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Open Government provides input and advice on the Government of Canada's open government commitments, identifies new areas of focus and builds the open government community across Canada. There are 12 member positions on the Multi-Stakeholder Forum, eight for civil society members and four for Government of Canada members. Having a forum like this is considered a best practice as part of Canada's membership in the Open Government Partnership.