

Application

Preliminary Question

In which language are you submitting the application (check one)?

Please note that each country has the option of either submitting an application in English, or in their native language if they are unable to pay for translation into English. For applications submitted in the native language, OGP will pay for the translation into English before passing on to the judges.

- English
 Native language (please mention)

If you are submitting in your native language and it is non-Latin based language, you will have the option of uploading a PDF file at the end of this application. Please follow the questions and word limits mentioned in the application template.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration of the 2015 Open Government Awards. If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

3rd International Open Data Conference (IODC 2015) (www.opendatacon.org)

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative.

[100 words]

Selection of the **3rd International Open Data Conference (IODC 2015)** considered two primary factors:

Impact of Results on Service Delivery: IODC 2015 was a touchstone for the international open data movement, establishing a global roadmap for the future of open data and promoting consistency and standardization among national, regional, and local governments' open data programs and services.

Positive Feedback from Stakeholders Involved: the event exemplified the inclusive, multilateral approach to open government promoted by OGP, engaging the participation of government and civil society organizations from around the world, as well as open government experts in academia and the private sector.

Is this initiative included in your country's OGP National Action Plan?

(Applicants can choose initiatives from within OR outside their OGP National Action Plans)

- Yes No

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name, title, phone number(s), email address(es) and mailing address of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the senior most individual responsible for overseeing the application requirements.

Please also provide the name and professional title of the government official responsible for implementing the initiative, if different from above.

Name: Stephen Walker
Title: Executive Director, Information Management and Open Government
Organization: Chief Information Officer Branch, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Government of Canada
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Email: stephen.walker@tbs-sct.gc.ca
Phone: (613) 946-3052

TYPE OF APPLICATION (required)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society organization. Only submit a joint application if a civil society organization was involved in either designing, implementing or monitoring the initiative jointly with the government.

Is this a joint application?

- Yes No

If yes, please fill out the "civil society point of contact" field below.

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT

Please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the organization. By providing these details you acknowledge that you are jointly applying with a civil society organization for the 2015 Open Government Awards.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media etc., please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership and the role each partner plays in your initiative.

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (www.idrc.ca)
 The World Bank (www.worldbank.org)
 The Caribbean Open Institute (www.caribbeanopeninstitute.org)
 Iniciativa Latinoamericana por los Datos Abiertos (LDA) (www.idatosabiertos.org)
 Open Data Institute (www.opendatainstitute.org)
 Open Data Research Symposium (www.opendataresearch.org)
 Open Knowledge Foundation (www.ckfn.org)
 Open North (www.opennorth.ca)
 Open Parliaments (www.openingparliament.org)
 Sunlight Foundation (www.sunlightfoundation.com)
 Transparency & Accountability Initiative (www.transparency-initiative.org)
 World Wide Web Foundation (www.webfoundation.org)

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants for the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is Improving Public Services through Open Government. Please visit here for more clarification on the theme. To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success of your initiative and its sustainability over time. Please answer the following questions:

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and what were the challenges posed by your national (or local) economic or political context?

Open Data continues to grow as a priority for governments around the world focused on delivering programs and services that empower citizens and business to use government data in innovative and value-added ways that drive economic and social benefits. Citizen-focused open data services are at different stages of development and could benefit from being able to leverage a common foundation of proven approaches and best practices. Unfortunately, international open data standards and principles are in early development, as is multilateral cooperation and coordination in this area.

Accordingly, the **3rd International Open Data Conference (IODC)** was conceived to bring together a broad range of international stakeholders in order to gather intelligence on citizen/civil society needs for open data, break down the silos between individual standardization efforts, work toward a strategic alignment of open data initiatives, and create a roadmap for the future of open data.

Given the potential for significant open data milestones to be set during the G7 leaders' summit (June), OGP Summit (October), G20 leaders' summit (November), and in support of the United Nations' ongoing development of post-2015 development goals, the time was deemed right for a significant international gathering to set a global open data agenda.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 250 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. How did it aim to improve public service delivery, who was it intended to benefit (specify the target population), and why was it important to use open government approaches to achieve this goal? If your initiative was designed to improve access or services for disadvantaged or marginalized groups, provide details on this here. Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

IODC 2015 was designed to provide a forum for government and civil society representatives from over 100 countries to strengthen collaboration, share best practices, and learn about the potential for open data to improve public services. It focused on achieving a number of objectives:

- A collective understanding on how open data is impacting key sectors, from agriculture to education, to health, and more;
- A roadmap on advancing open data programs and services: principles, standards, capacity building, and measuring impact;
- Strategic contributions to open data initiatives at the global, national, and regional level through both the program and pre-conference meetings;
- Significant learning and networking opportunities for participants from government, civil society, and the private sector.

Conference sessions were drawn from 250+ content proposals received from 50 countries. The program was focused into four Action Tracks, each with an emphasis on producing forward-looking plans and action-oriented outcomes to improve open data programs and services:

- Unlocking the Supply of Open Data:** adopting common principles that set baseline requirements for ambitious open data initiatives;
- Toward a Consensus on Open Data Standards:** exploring client needs and driving standardization to support innovators in reusing and comparing data across jurisdictions;
- Scaling Solutions that Work:** adapting proven approaches from one level of government to another; and
- Delivering Inclusive Impact:** identifying best-fit strategies that consider different countries' respective contexts and capacity.

The IODC benefited not only open data experts, but also governments, civil society organizations, business, and individual citizens who were given unprecedented access to international open data expertise.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 450 words or less, explain how your initiative was able to demonstrate one or more of the following results:

- Citizens have better access to information on the public services to which they are entitled, and/or information on the performance of public service providers
- Governments are better at asking for and responding to feedback or complaints by citizens on the quality of public services
- Citizens have ways to actively participate in the design and delivery of public services
- Citizens have mechanisms to monitor and oversee public works and services

Initiatives should also provide evidence if the initiative was able to expand access to public services to a larger population than before or if the quality and efficiency of public services has improved.

If there are any baseline indicators to measure the outcomes of the initiative, please describe them in detail. If the initiative was included in the OGP Action Plan, please describe how this did (or did not) contribute to the initiative's success.

The **3rd International Open Data Conference (IODC)** was hosted and funded by the Government of Canada through the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), with support from the World Bank, and additional sponsors, including Omidyar Network. Under the banner of "Enabling the Data Revolution", the conference brought together open data experts, professionals, and users/innovators from across the world to share perspectives on the global impact of open data programs and services, and to collaborate on maximizing the potential of open data internationally.

The IODC exceeded expectations in terms of participation and momentum established for improving the availability and consistency of open data services. Key outcomes included:

- Announcement of a new **International Open Data Charter** developed by the OGP Open Data Working Group that will establish a set of common principles to provide governments with a solid foundation for undertaking the development and delivery of open data services in their own jurisdictions.
- Provision of an **international forum for more than 150 panellists and speakers from governments and civil society** to share their perspectives and experiences on how open data is impacting program and service delivery in key sectors, from agriculture to education, to the environment, to health, to elections, and more;
- Transformation of those discussions into a forward looking, **global roadmap for advancing open data** that lays the groundwork for future multilateral efforts at promoting open data, including the promotion of international principles and standards, building capacity to support the delivery of services that improve access to open data, and measuring impacts of open data.
- Provision of a **focal point for international efforts aimed at improving open data around the world**, including a week of pre-conference events hosted by a number of prominent international civil society organizations, including a civil society-led "Unconference" hosted by the Open Knowledge Foundation, and an Open Government Leaders' Summit hosted by Canada, the OGP, and the Open Data Institute.
- Creation of significant **learning and networking opportunities** for over 1,000 participants from government, civil society, and private sector representatives from 100+ countries around the world.

Collectively, the impact of these outcomes will continue to have a significant effect on the availability of high quality, consistent, interoperable services in Canada and abroad. The IODC was well attended by Canadian government officials across multiple jurisdictions, who will be able to take the knowledge and best practices gained through their participation at the conference to help inform the development of their own local open data programs and services. In this way, the conference was also able to strengthen domestic collaboration on open data issues, such as federating data among F/P/T governments, and establishing national open data principles and standards to help unlock the full potential of open data across Canada.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up or sustaining the initiative. Base your description of the strategy on the information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you manage those risks on a regular basis.

Building on the groundwork established by the first two international open data conferences held in Washington in 2010 and 2012, the Government of Canada and its fellow conference organizers successfully broadened the scope of participation for the 3rd IODC. Furthermore, outcomes of the conference have generated significant momentum for the next phase of the international open data movement.

Having announced the International Open Data Charter as a key outcome of the IODC, there has already been a great deal of support for its ongoing development expressed by countries around the world. During 2015, consultations on the text of the Charter and supporting documents, as well as on proposed governance and a roadmap for promoting the widest possible adoption of the Charter will be completed with governments and civil society.

In addition, plans are already underway for the next International Open Data Conference, which will be hosted by the Government of Spain and held in Madrid in 2016 (www.IODC2016.se). Furthermore, conference partners have begun to discuss further IODC gatherings through 2016. The lead-up to the IODC in Madrid will provide an opportunity for governments and CSOs to work on developing and implementing plans made at the 3rd IODC in Ottawa.

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes an implementing partner, such as a Civil Society Organization, private sector agency, media entity, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from at least two credible nongovernmental actors, who can attest to the veracity of the claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

2015 OGP Award (Canada) - Letters - Open North-Web Foundation-ODI.pdf

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

The rapid advancement of open data initiatives within several international forums – including the Open Government Partnership (OGP), United Nations, World Bank, OECD, and governments around the world – reflects an unprecedented level of interest in open data and its potential economic and social impacts.

Accordingly, through IODC 2015, Canada leveraged a unique opportunity to bring together a broad group of international stakeholders to help break down barriers between producers and users of data and work toward a more collaborative, integrated approach to mapping the future of open data programs and services. As a key conference outcome, the OGP Open Data Working Group advanced discussions on an International Open Data Charter of universally-accepted open data principles that respond to the needs of all – from the most technologically advanced government agencies to public sector institutions just beginning to publish and reuse data in electronic formats.

The global impact of IODC 2015 will be felt for years to come. Through the articulation and adoption of common open data principles in the Charter, governments can work collaboratively to make data more useful, spur innovation, and realize the socio-economic benefits enabled by open data. For governments that have already established open data programs and services, the Charter provides continuing guidance for maximising the release and standardisation of data. Alternatively, for countries that are just getting started with their open data activities, the Charter can serve as a statement of commitment and the means to pursue political support for the fundamental principles of openness.

VIDEO SUBMISSION or ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS (optional*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.

Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

- Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.
- Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.
- If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.
- If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

Introduce yourself and your initiative. Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective. What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach? Keep your description and language simple.

* NOTE

If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. You may upload additional documents instead, such as proof of implementation and results if you wish. This could take the form of evaluation or audit reports, citizen surveys, media reports etc. that would provide additional validation for judges. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.

You are only allowed to upload one file with a maximum of 3 pages. This file must be in English or in your native language. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

Full Submission Of non-Latin Based Native Language

If your language is Latin based, DO NOT use this upload field. Please use the application above.

You are only allowed to upload one file with an extension of .PDF