Canadian Open Data Awards 2017

Jury Statement

[CONFIDENTIAL - EMBARGOED until June 13, 6:30 pm Edmonton time - Awards Ceremony]

Members of the Jury

Co-Chair: Moses Iziomon
Senior Project Advisor, Open Government, Chief Information Officer Branch
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat / Government of Canada

Co-Chair: Lorna Brown
Senior Project Manager, Treasury Board
Government of New Brunswick
Past co-host, CODS (2016)

Jean-Noé Landry
Executive Director, Open North
Past host, CODS (2015)

Dr Tracey P. Lauriault
Assistant Professor, Critical Media and Big Data
Communication and Media Studies
School of Journalism and Communication
Carleton University

Gabe Sawney
Executive Director
Code for Canada

Preamble

For CODS17 we oversaw a further expansion of the excellence program and are happy to present eight Canadian Open Data Awards, including the new Open Data Rising Star Award. Seven of the winners are known in advance of the awards ceremony:

- **Open Data Accessibility Award:** Powered by Data
- **Open Data Advocacy Award:** Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)
- **Open Data for Democracy:** Open Democracy Manitoba
- **Open Data for Value:** City of Calgary
- **Open Data Innovation**: Government of Alberta
- **Canadian Open Data Excellence Award 2017**: Government of Ontario
- **Canadian Open Data Leader of the Year 2017**: André Laperrière

On the night of June 13th, 2017, at the awards ceremony of the Canadian Open Data Summit 2017, one among three finalists will be named **Canadian Open Data Rising Star 2017.** The finalists are:

- City of Brampton
- Edmonton Police Services (EPS) Dashboard
- STEM Fellowship

The winner is the City of Brampton.

Jury statements

- **Open Data Accessibility Award:** Powered by Data

The social sector is underrepresented in Open Data. Powered by Data is praised by the jury for opening the space to share across sectors. Since 2013 Powered by Data has been working with leaders at nonprofits, governments, and foundations to help them better use, share, and learn from data. This means making sure all of the different stakeholders in the sector have access to the data they need to make informed decisions. To accomplish this, Powered By Data has focused on getting open data published. In 2016, their proposal was adopted as Commitment 11 in Government of Canada's commitments to the Open Government Partnership – Increase Transparency of Grants and Contributions Funding. And in 2016 they took a strong public stand against the BRIDGE Registry to defend the information availability of the non-profit sector. For these and all their accomplishments to improve understanding, encourage advocacy, and help build capacity through Open Data, the jury awards Powered by Data the **Open Data Accessibility Award 2017.**

- **Open Data Advocacy Award:** Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)

Launched in 2015, the Global Open Data initiative for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy and public and private institutional support for open data. GODAN encourages collaboration and cooperation among existing agriculture and open data activities and brings together all stakeholders to solve long-standing global problems. In just two years, GODAN has attracted more than 530 partners from all continents and all sectors, united by the belief that the emerging global food security challenge will be overcome thanks to innovation, fuelled by open data and knowledge. Led by a Canadian, Executive Director André Laperrière, GODAN advocates among other things, for:
- open data/ open access policies by default, in both public and private sectors;
- collaborative efforts on future agriculture and nutrition open data endeavours;
- and programs, good practices, and lessons learned that enable the use of open data particularly by and for the rural and urban poor.

The jury were profoundly impressed with the scope of GODAN's achievements in such a short time, and hopes to help them advocate more forcefully here in Canada by

awarding GODAN the **Open Data Advocacy Award 2017.**

- **Open Data for Democracy:** Open Democracy Manitoba

Open Democracy Manitoba (ODM) builds digital tools for democratic engagement. Their mission is to empower citizens, helping them learn about the roles, decisions, and visions of our representatives in order have a more accountable and respectful democracy. The jury feels that they have brought their mission to life with impact, including (as leaders do) influencing others to follow in their footsteps: their volunteer work on two election portals was made open-source and has inspired groups in Kingston, ON and Nanaimo, BC to build similar resources. The jury feels that Open Democracy Manitoba has rightfully received positive feedback and public recognition for their work, which embodies the very spirit of "Open" and gives it practical impact for the benefit of citizens and governments alike. For these reasons, the jury awards Open Democracy Manitoba the **Open Data for Democracy Award 2017.**

- **Open Data for Value:** City of Calgary

The jury is impressed with the groundbreaking work that the City of Calgary has done, particularly on their portal, which offers users a high-value experience with enhanced data analysis features, new data visualization tools, and API capabilities for easier app development. In addition to launching Open Calgary, the City is actively supporting open data excellence through AnalyticsCalgary, a new program to enable data-driven decision-making in four key areas: civic innovation, business intelligence, advanced analytics, and open data. The evolution of Calgary's work in providing ever-increasing value through open data initiatives has been clear to see, and for this the jury awards the City of Calgary the **Open Data for Value Award 2017.**

- **Open Data Innovation**: Province of Alberta

The Government of Alberta's Open Government Program was one of the first sub nationals in the world to adopt the principles and standards of the UK G8 draft of the Open Data charter as policy. This policy also aligns with Canada's National Action Plan on Open Data. The jury is impressed with their work in Open Data, not least for making legislation available via the Alberta Open Government Portal as Open Laws. This means that electronic versions of Alberta's laws and regulations are now easier to search for and that citizens can now find open data, open information and/or laws and regulations from the same search process on a single website – open.alberta.ca. For this and all their forward-looking Open Data work, the jury awards the Province of Alberta the **Open Data Innovation Award 2017**.

- **Canadian Open Data Excellence Award 2017**: Province of Ontario

The Province of Ontario's work in Open Data has become the gold standard in Canada. They were nominated by Civic Tech Toronto, who note that since the Province launched its Open Government Action Plan in 2015, Ontario "has been blazing the open data trail ever since." High praise indeed and the record bears it out: in 2016, Ontario was the only province in Canada to be selected as a subnational pilot of the Open Government Partnership. And in 2017, it was the first province to adopt the International Open Data Charter as a key commitment for the OGP.

The Province lives these commitments, whether partnering with the University of Toronto to improve public engagement in Ontario, helping Ontarians identify the fish that are safe to eat from more than 2,400 locations, or creating a public Geo Hub that has increased access and requests for the data and led to the co-creation of data products with new partners.

Ontario's progress has been strategic, using sound policies and achieving cultural transformation - no mean feat. They are bringing government staff and citizens alike along with them on the tide of Open Data and what it can do for government and citizens. For this amazing achievement, the jury awards to the Province of Ontario our highest organizational recognition, the **Canadian Open Data Excellence Award 2017.**

- **Canadian Open Data Leader of the Year 2017**: André Laperrière

Given how impressed as the jury were by what GODAN is building for us all, we could not look past its Executive Director when considering the many achievements of Canadians in Open Data over the past year and beyond. André Laperrière is the first Executive Director of Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition, which he has grown to include more than 530 partners on all continents. His extensive work experience in developing countries and conflict environments has positioned him perfectly to advocate for programs that will enable the world's least advantaged farmers to improve both their own lives and the planet's food security through the use of Open Data. And André's background in projects with the biggest players (World Bank, United Nations, World Health Organization, etc.) gives him the world-stage expertise to achieve practical objectives in the use of open data for our future food security. André Laperrière is a true Champion of Open Data and we are proud to honour him as **Canadian Open Data Leader of the Year 2017**.

Open Data Rising Star 2017: Finalists

The newest award recognizes the efforts of up-and-comers on the Canadian Open Data scene. The jury found the energy, enthusiasm, and innovation of these three submissions particularly refreshing:

- **City of Brampton**

In August 2015 the City of Brampton launched Brampton GeoHub, a new, comprehensive open data portal. GeoHub allows users to explore, visualize, analyze, filter and use open datasets before they download them, saving significant time and resources for both City staff who support the platform, as well as users who download the data. Data in the GeoHub is also tightly integrated with other City systems, ensuring that the accuracy, quality and currency are kept to a very high standard. Brampton's GeoHub is different from other municipal open data sites because it goes beyond the data download. The GeoHub provides visualization and analysis tools that the public can use to interact with the data. Instead of downloading a zip file, loading it into a system and querying it only to find out it's not the data they require, users of Brampton's GeoHub can find exactly what they are looking for, filter it and only download the bits they actually need.

- **Edmonton Police Service (EPS) dashboard**

In August 2016, the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) launched the EPS Dashboard on the City of Edmonton's Open Data portal. The dashboard marked a Canadian police agency first by releasing crime statistics and police performance metrics in an online dashboard format. In addition, EPS complemented its existing Crime Map by releasing an 85,000-row dataset of crime statistics at the neighbourhood level. One concern of standard open data catalogues is that the data is too technical to understand for those of the public with limited computer literacy. The dashboard uses a more data-driven storytelling format to help guide users through the statistical content and provides context for what is being shown. The positive public response to the dashboard and the release of neighbourhood-level crime statistics have led to the potential for future open data releases that could approach "holy grail" data – meaning, more granular crime data. This is democratic, valuable, brave, and in the spirit of "Open."

- **STEM Fellowship**

The jury noted the enthusiasm bursting from the page of the STEM fellowship's nomination; when people get this excited about bringing the joys of data science to others, they definitely deserve recognition. STEM Fellowship is an entirely student-run Canadian organization which has two components: an open access scientific journal and the STEM Fellowship Big Data Challenge. The organization primarily services high school and undergraduate students, but there are also many graduate students, as well as university faculty, high school teachers, and private industry volunteers who help make everything happen. The Big Data Challenge engages high school students to get excited about using data science tools to solve real world problems, thus contributing to the next generation of "Open."

Winner:

The choice was very difficult, but for providing enormous value to citizens and thereby increasing engagement, the jury awards the **Open Data Rising Star 2017** to the **City of Brampton**