



Canada Open Government Working Group

Joint Councils – September 22, 2020

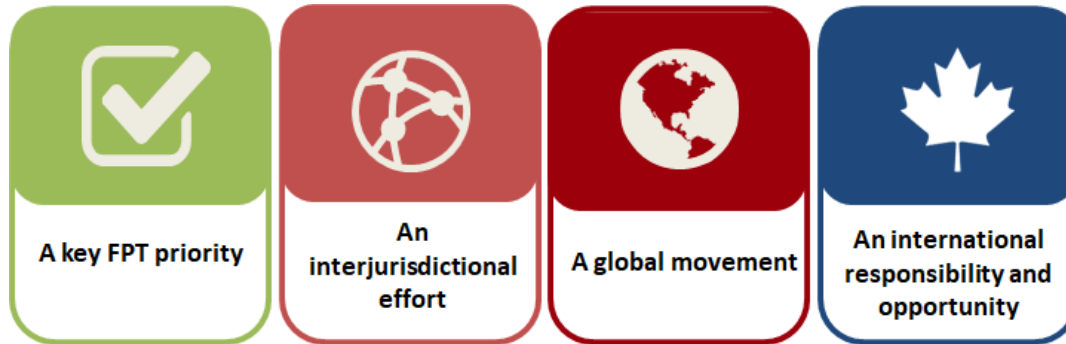
Purpose

- Overview on the Canada Open Government Working Group (COGWWG) work plan priorities and ongoing progress.
- Report on key jurisdictional accomplishments and ongoing challenges, including those related to COVID-19.
- Outline of additional pan-Canadian work currently underway.

Annex A – COGWWG 2020-2021 Work Plan

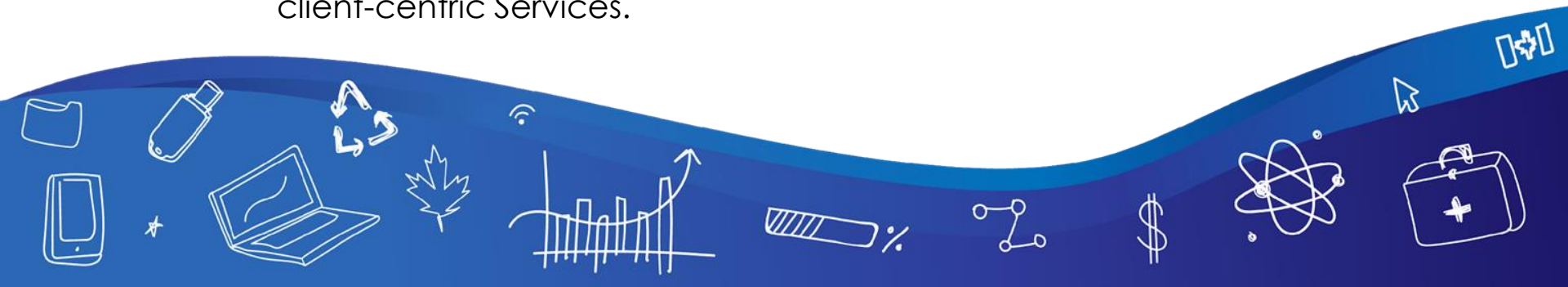


Open Government and why it matters



Open Government is about greater **openness and accountability and integrity**, strengthening **democracy** and **citizen participation**, and driving **innovation** and economic opportunities for all Canadians.

- Key priority for many governments in Canada, included in federal ministerial mandate letter
- An opportunity for public servants to more effectively deliver the programs and services Canadians want and expect;
- Well-aligned with the Joint Council's priorities on digital strategy and client-centric Services.



Canada Open Government Working Group

- A forum for [multi-jurisdictional collaboration](#) and advancement of key pan-Canadian Open Government priorities, such as federated open data search, and standardizations including developing metadata standards.
- Comprised of members from federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, as well as national municipal organizations.
- Currently co-chaired by the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta.
- Meets monthly to advance work and ensure alignment on key open government priorities.
- Provides expert advice on Open Government and reports to the Joint Councils.



COGWW 2020-2021 Priorities

LEADS

PRIORITIES

Canada + Alberta

Open Data User Stories

Canada + Ontario

Support and enhancement of digital common extensions (CKAN) for Open Government Portals

Ontario + Québec

Publish With A Purpose

Canada + Alberta

Open Government Literacy

Manitoba + NWT

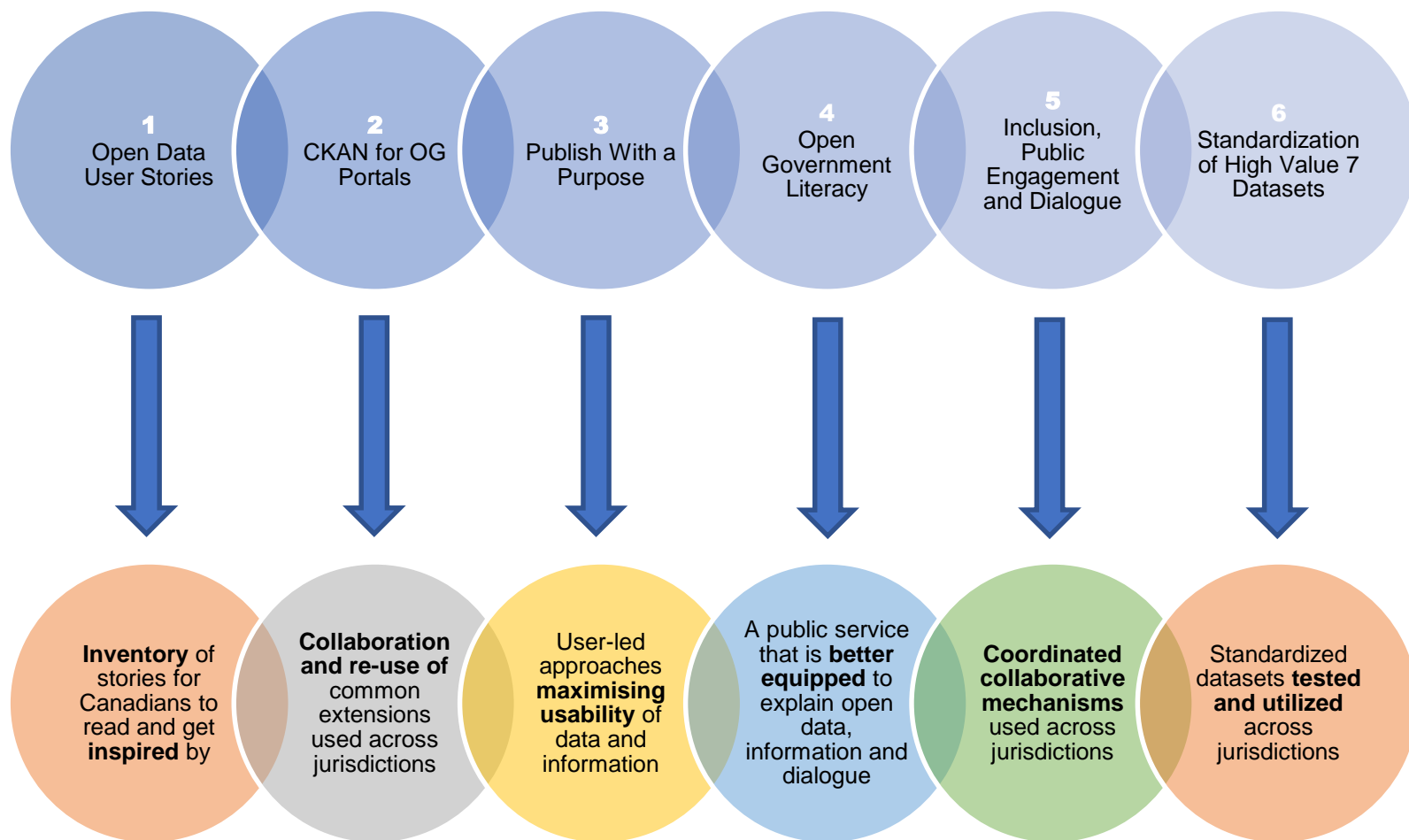
Inclusion, Public Engagement and Dialogue

Québec + Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

Standardization of High Value Datasets

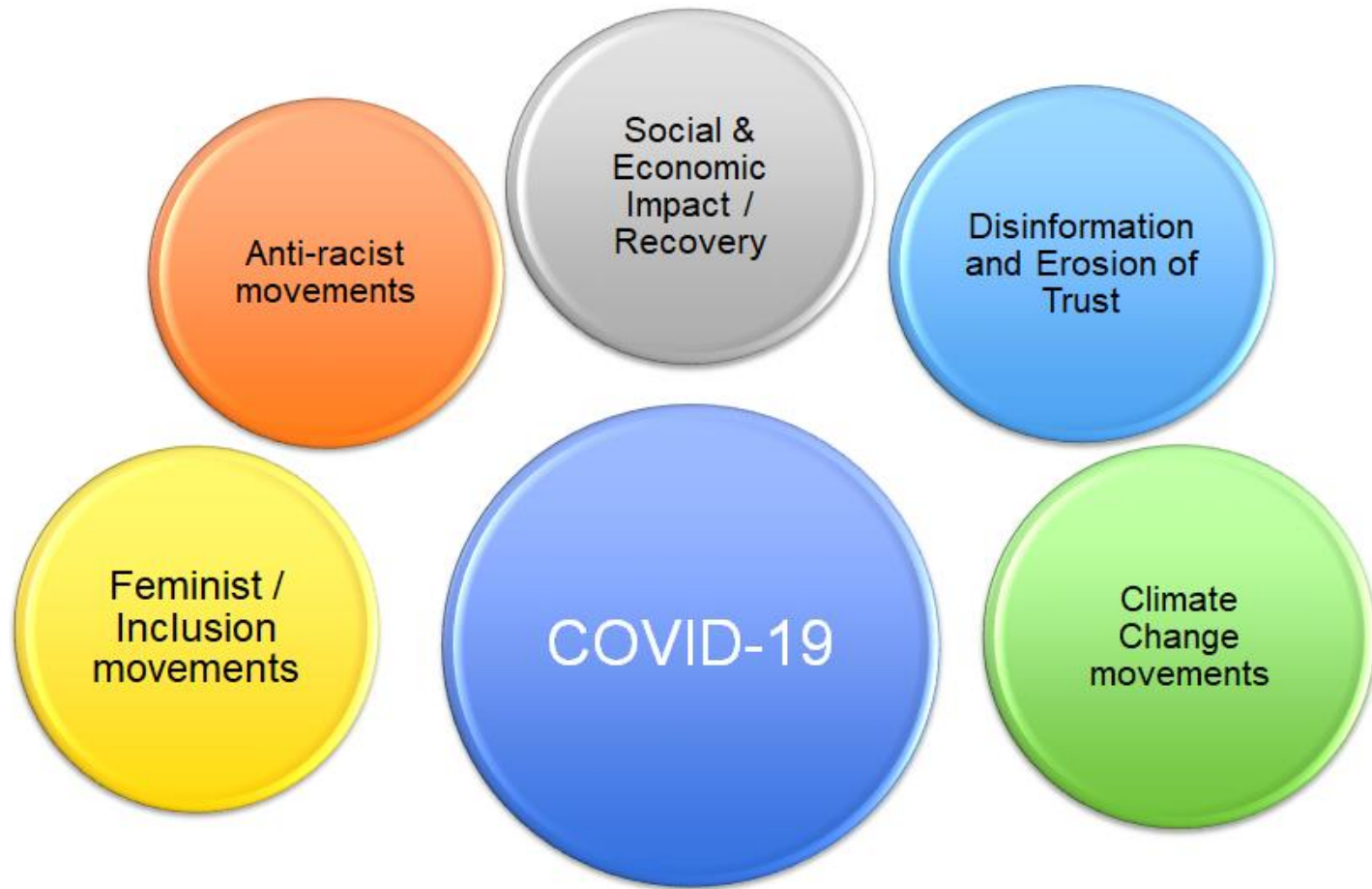


COGWWG 2020-2021 priorities' anticipated outcomes*



*See Annex A for detailed COGWWG 2020-21 Workplan

The pandemic has sharpened some key priorities and issues



...COGWWG 2020-2021 Workplan is also adapting to the new COVID reality

- The pandemic has impacted the day-to-day work of everyone across Canada
- The COGWWG work plan and some its commitments were revisited as COVID-19 delayed their implementation
- The pandemic, however, didn't just delay the work but it also highlighted some opportunities within the workplan that had not been previously identified
- Given this, some of the workplan items have been tweaked to better reflect and respond to the new realities we now face



... and Open Government is adjusting!

Business as usual	Opportunities	Ongoing Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly meetings between federal, provincial and territorial counterparts• Regular bilateral calls to share priorities and offer support• Opening data related to COVID-19 on open data portals• Regular Intergovernmental collaboration• Provide guidance around the use of common digital extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-focus our open government initiatives to address citizen needs, including COVID-related open data and information• Harmonize the Government of Canada's open government efforts across jurisdictions• Partnering in a fully-digital public consultation, including deliberative dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shift in priorities across jurisdictions due to COVID-19• Lack of resources (HR and funding) in some jurisdictions limits the engagement in Open Government initiatives• Slowdown in momentum in some regions due to political reasons



COGWG 2020-21 Workplan progress – Items on track

Priority	Progress to Date	Opportunities
Open Government Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PTs informed of a partnership with CSPS to deliver a workshop that includes the PT perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnering with OGDs to develop a workshop in collaboration with FPTs to learn about Open Government across jurisdictions• Additional literacy opportunities are being considered
Inclusion, Public Engagement and Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EngageMB.ca was utilized for 2 engagement projects related to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scan engagement activities during COVID-19 across the federation• Identify key principles and good practices from the resulting COVID-19 engagement activities scan and the public engagement <u>e-scan and mapping</u> done in 2019
Standardization of High Value Datasets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standardization has been developed and the sub-standard for addresses standard is now in the testing phase with other jurisdictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Brunswick will be involved in the testing phase

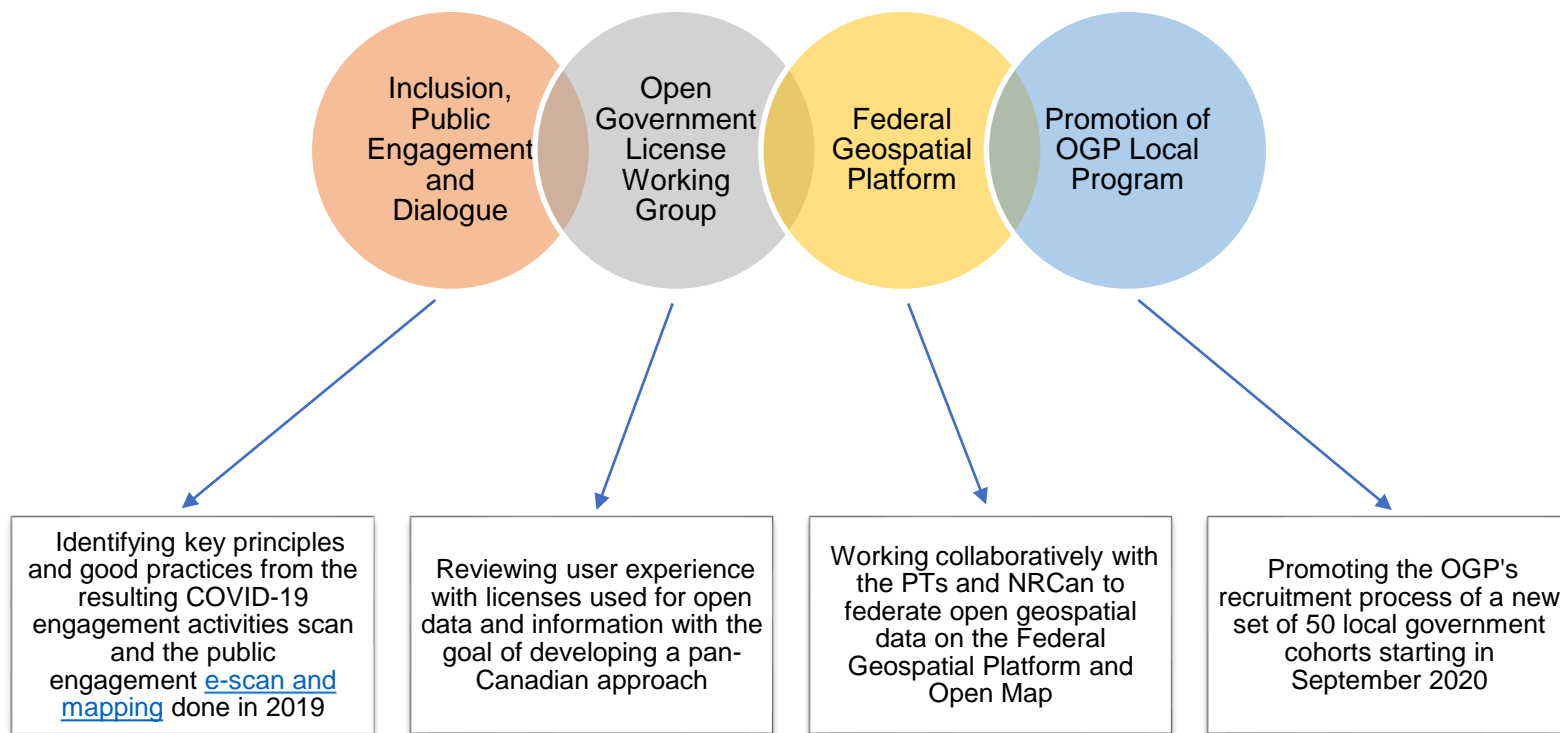


COGWG 2020-2021 workplan progress – Items impacted by COVID-19

Priority	Progress to Date	Challenges	Opportunities
Open Data User Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 stories published• 9 additional stories in progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government communications halted due to COVID-19 government communications restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19 related user stories being gathered with 1 currently in approvals• 9 stories are still in development and planned to be published
CKAN for Open Government Portals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working group established, terms of reference approved• FPT collaboration ensured CKAN 2.9 release (can now run on Python 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priorities shifted to focus on helping with the pandemic response which delayed the working group formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The surge in pan-Canadian collaboration through the pandemic has propelled the work of the group forward
Publish With A Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministries provided a list of high value datasets they plan to release in 2020 that will be of high economic and social value, and align with user needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priorities shifted for the open data team to focus on the COVID-19 response	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work is expected to start again in late summer 2020 and will likely incorporate COVID-related data



Additional pan-Canadian work underway by COGWWG





Annex A

COGWWG 2020-21 Workplan

1. Open Data User Stories

Issue	Canadians don't know what can be done with open data → The social and economic impact of open data is not maximized
Expected Outcome	Inventories of stories are created → Governments can showcase their efforts and impacts → Canadians are inspired by these stories and use open data
Leads (L) & Partner (P)	Canada (L) and Alberta (P)
Activities	<u>March</u> : initial inventory of user story established. <u>June</u> : release of minimum 1 user story on the open government portal. <u>September</u> : second round of releases based on lessons learned from first release. <u>December</u> : Systematic ongoing collection of user stories for the inventory and for release.

2. Support and enhancement of Digital common extensions (CKAN) for open governments portals

Issue	Jurisdictions working in isolation → Duplication of work across Canada → Slower pace of advancement
Expected Outcome	Ongoing collaborative support and enhancement of CKAN → Common extensions used across jurisdictions → Better awareness of new resources, faster development
Leads (L) & Partner (P)	Canada (L) and Ontario (P)
Activities	<u>March</u> : Working group established. <u>June</u> : Engagement with CKAN community through the online forums. <u>September</u> : Sharing resources developed and best practices among the community (data quality, visualizations, system integrations); sharing of templates for working in the open. <u>December</u> : Ongoing community engagement at developer level and beyond to ensure momentum and continued use of CKAN and its common extensions.

3. Publish with a purpose

Issue	Disconnect between what is published and what would be most beneficial to businesses, researchers and civil society. → The social and economic impact of open data is not maximized
Expected Outcome	Shift to a user-led approach to data releases → Open data released is of high value to users, maximizes usability → Process to release open data is consistent with established open government practices, including co-creation, participation and accountability
Leads (L) & Partner (P)	Ontario (L) and Quebec (P)
Activities	<u>March</u> : Conduct and share user research on data catalogue usability and open data user personas <u>June</u> : Compile and publish open data user research results from Canadian jurisdictions <u>September</u> : Design approach to sharing data catalogue analytics publically <u>December</u> : Explore more opportunities for public feedback on data use and reuse – storytelling, case studies, etc.

4. Open Government Literacy

Issue	Canadians don't know that they can influence government decisions and have access to government data and information → Low participation rates and low trust in government
Expected Outcome	Common resources are made available to develop the skills of public servants of all levels → Public servants are better equipped to explain open data, open information and open dialogue → More Canadians understand what open government can do for them and get involved
Leads (L) & Partner (P)	Canada (L) and Alberta (P)
Activities	<u>March</u> : Multi-jurisdictional working group established. <u>June</u> : Establish an inventory of existing resources across jurisdictions and determine which resources are missing. <u>September</u> : Existing resources are released and new resources are developed. <u>December</u> : Ongoing release of resources made available to public servants.

5. Inclusion, Public engagement and Dialogue

Issue	Engagement efforts are duplicative or misaligned → Canadians feel over-consulted → Engagement approaches are not as inclusive as they should be
Expected Outcome	Coordinated collaborative mechanisms for public dialogue and engagement across jurisdictions are available.
Leads (L) & Partner (P)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manitoba (L) and North West Territories (P)
Activities	<p><u>June</u>: Share with COGWG key documents guiding Manitoba's engagement with citizens, including COVID-19 engagement</p> <p><u>July</u>: Scan engagement activities during COVID-19 across the federation.</p> <p><u>August</u>: identify key principles and good practices from the resulting COVID-19 engagement activities scan and the public engagement e-scan and mapping done in 2019</p> <p><u>September</u>: Present and discuss at COGWG the key principles and good practices in a context of digital engagement activities</p> <p><u>October</u>: Develop learning plan on key engagement principles and practices to be presented and discussed at COGWG</p>

6. Standardization of high value datasets

Issue	Standardized high value datasets have not been tested → Review of standards across jurisdictions is required to ensure quality, interoperability and comparability of data in standards is accurate
Expected Outcome	Important standardized datasets are released across jurisdictions and collaboratively reviewed and tested
Leads (L) & Partner (P)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quebec (L) and Nova Scotia (P) and New Brunswick (P)
Activities	March: Release of final documentation about standardization June: Finalization of baby standard name September: Implementation of the standards December: Testing of high value datasets

Thank You! / Merci !

Contact Us / Contactez-nous



Melanie.Robert@tbs-sct.gc.ca

open-ouvert@tbs-sct.gc.ca



@OpenGovCan

