

SYMPOSIUM SUMMARY

DATE: February 09, 2023

ISSUE: January 2023 Digital Trust and Cybersecurity Symposium in Vancouver

BACKGROUND:

Québec hosted the first Ministers symposium on Digital Identity and Cybersecurity in June 2022. The first symposium mapped out a diverse landscape of digital trust and cybersecurity progress across the provinces and territories. Despite the various approaches and status, there was agreement on several shared priorities including leading digital growth for Canadians, protecting against increasing cybersecurity threats, finding, and recruiting skilled resources, and managing costs.

The conversation also began to shift from digital identity—an electronic representation of a person's identity—to digital trust. This reframes the conversation to a broader context. It recognizes that Canadians need to be empowered to work and play online securely and confidently, with the goal of a thriving digital economy.

In September 2022, the Joint Councils met and agreed to resource a Digital Credentials and Trust Program Office operated by the Institute for Citizen-Centred Service for three –years, at a total cost of \$4.152M and using a shared funding model. The program will provide secretariat and communications for the Deputies' and Ministers' Tables, support cross-jurisdictional implementation teams, and provide preliminary support for small and medium size jurisdictions.

In January 2023, British Columbia hosted the second symposium. The symposium signalled a commitment from governments to take the lead in protecting personal information in the digital world, and agreements on priorities such as cross-jurisdictional collaboration, project work sharing, solutions' interoperability, and information sharing. Deputies' and Ministers' Tables endorsed the development of a **Pan-Canadian Workplan** focused on priorities related to digital trust, credentials, cybersecurity, and work on enabling Indigenous languages in identity systems.

Ministers were in support of an annual meeting cadence, with Ontario to host in September 2023 in collaboration with the Government of Canada. Newfoundland and Labrador offered to host the meeting in June 2024.

NEXT STEPS:

At the February 2023 Joint Councils and Public Sector CIO Council (PSCIOC) meeting in Ottawa, a proposal will be tabled to create a Pan-Canadian workplan and align the Minister and Deputy Minister meetings with those of the PSCIOC and Joint Councils.

Attachments: APPENDIX – SYMPOSIUM JAN 2023 ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

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APPENDIX – SYMPOSIUM JAN 2023 ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

Proposed Actions and Priorities

| THEME | MINISTERS | DEPUTIES |
|--|---|---|
| Develop a Pan-Canadian Workplan | Consensus to develop a pan-Canadian workplan for the Ministers' Table | Agreed, and consensus for DMs to develop the workplan with support from Joint Councils, and the Public Sector CIO Council (PSCIOC). |
| | Encourage jurisdictions to use open code so we can all benefit | Agreed |
| Collaborate on Digital Trust | Continue inter-jurisdictional collaboration on Digital Trust and Cybersecurity | Agreed |
| | Work to ensure pan-Canadian digital trust and credentials interoperability | Agreed |
| | Recognition of cross jurisdictional work on projects already underway | Build on and share cross jurisdictional work on projects already underway |
| | | Partner on communications and consultation of Canadians. |
| Collective Action on Cybersecurity | Improving cybersecurity posture, training, and ransomware response | Agreed |
| | Jurisdictional Information sharing | Agreed, leverage existing structures, such as NCCIP, to accelerate. Create a consistent and comprehensive living set of agreements to protect Canadians and respond to any threats across all levels. |
| | | Develop a shared set of cybersecurity incident response experts |
| Build and Retain Digital & Cybersecurity Talent | Work on digital staffing and retention | Agreed, looking at different approaches including recruitment, training, redeployment, and retention. Building the next generation of digital/cyber talent. |
| Enable Indigenous languages in identity records/ systems* | In collaboration with Indigenous communities, mapping the current barriers, legislative, policy, and practice, and the existing tools in use. | |

**Item identified on Day 2, after Deputy and Ministers roundtables.*

Ministers Decisions

- Ministers in support of an annual meeting.
- Ontario offered to host the September 2023 meeting in Niagara in collaboration with GoC.
- Newfoundland and Labrador offered to host the meeting in June 2024.