

FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) POLICY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

January 2020 Update to PSCIOC

Background

The FPT ICT Policy Working Group) was established in 2014 at the direction of the Public Sector Chief Information Officer's Council (PSCIOC) representing all federal, provincial and territorial governments. This forum enables participating governments to exchange information, policies, and best practices related to ICT Policy.

The ICT policy working group operates on the belief that active collaboration among all members will enable the development of policy instruments that will be informed by, and when possible, aligned to the work of our colleagues across the country. In turn, this should result in more opportunities to share approaches or even federate services to promote a more Pan-Canadian approach to policy development and delivery.

In addition, through active collaboration, members also enjoy having an extended network of policy contacts across the country with whom they can informally connect to discuss challenges and approaches.

Membership

Through a gradual recruitment process from 2014 onward, our membership had grown to include representatives from eight provinces, two territories, and the federal government.

The current ICT policy working group membership includes representation from the following jurisdictions:

1. Canada (Federal government / Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat)
2. British Columbia (co-chair)
3. Saskatchewan
4. Manitoba
5. Ontario
6. New Brunswick (co-chair)
7. Prince Edward Island
8. Nova Scotia
9. Newfoundland & Labrador
10. Northwest Territories
11. Nunavut

Due to activities during the past year, it has been suggested the membership should be extended to include Municipal representatives as permanent “guests” whose participation would be focused on sharing information and direction rather than leadership of the group. A suggested amendment to the Terms of Reference for the group is included in this update package.

ICT Policy Working Group Objectives

- To share information, best practices, research, and to discuss national, provincial and territorial goals, positions and priorities for ICT policy in each jurisdiction, and to test their interoperability;
- To maintain the highest standards of policy analysis;
- To provide a forum for discussion to improve ICT policy and management by fostering innovation in research, analysis, and education;
- To create an approach to ICT policy that builds on the existing strengths of member governments - to increase their capacity to take advantage of opportunities and respond effectively to the challenges of new technologies; and
- To assist the PSCIOC membership with addressing any common policy issues.

The objectives of the group have been under discussion since the alignment process over a year ago. When reviewing the “High Level Scope Form for establishing new Working Group or Community Of Practice” document (5B – January 17 PSCIOC Teleconference Agenda), it becomes apparent the ICT Policy Group has been operating closer to a Community of Practice by sharing information than a Working Group with specific deliverables aligned to the leadership’s priority objectives. This is evidenced by the Objectives identified above.

Meeting Frequency

The ICT policy working group meets bi-monthly by teleconference.

Highlights

- Bi-monthly meetings continue to be focused on sharing information and receiving updates from member jurisdictions to address any specific ICT policy issues and challenges that members may have encountered.
- Initiated the development of an ongoing master list of various policy instruments contributed by some jurisdictions (including policies, directives, standards and guidelines);
- Our membership continues to endorse our “community of practice” approach and has recognized value being received from cross-jurisdictional sharing of ICT policy information.

- Jared Bielby (City of Edmonton) provided an overview of his role as Digital Ethics Advisor. Jared discussion include: Cyber Security and Data Ethics advisory services, Primary responsibilities and operational direction of Data and Analytics Ethics Advisory.
- Susan Martin (NT) had asked the WG about data storage, specifically “In order to continue to operate, grow and continue to offer services, the GNWT needs a sustainably-funded storage solution, one that works hand in hand with best practices in information management”. Susan had polled the WG asking about data storage, operation/contract/ownership of a data centre, cost of data storage and structure of cost recovery model. Susan provided an update on the responses received.
- Dean Sutton (BC) provided an overview of the Policy Capacity work being conducted in BC. Purpose of BC initiative: Provide policy capacity building resources to support IM IT policy professionals and practitioners across the Ministry of Citizens’ Services. Dean recognize the work Alberta has done in preparing IM IT specific policy capacity development building materials and thanked them and others for sharing. Dean asked the WG the following questions:
 - Any work happening in your jurisdictions in IM IT policy development capacity building?
 - Aware of any IM IT specific policy development capacity building resources outside of Canada?
- Dean Sutton (BC) provided an update on the Digital Policy Framework being developed in BC. The Digital Framework sets out several actions to facilitate government’s shift to digital government. One of the priority actions is to modernize policy on information management (IM) and information technology (IT).
 - The team is using agile and scrum to develop policy products. The team is working out the BC Exchange lab.
 - The team has a product owner, scrum master, and development team made up of policy analyst.
 - Initial research identified over 1,200 policy requirements across 70 different policy instruments. Many of these requirements overlap, and some of them even conflict with one another.
 - One of the goals is to reduce the number of policy requirements along with simplifying the policies themselves so that they can be more widely understood.
 - The team developed a set of draft digital principles that will help guide future digital service development and delivery.
 - The draft Digital Principles have been shared on Github and Medium for comment.

Appendix A

Federal Provincial Territorial Information Communication Technology (FPT ICT) Policy Working Group

Membership List – as of January 2020

Alberta

TBD

British Columbia

Dean Sutton (co-chair)

Kathleen Assaf

Manitoba

Patrick Hoyer

New Brunswick

Keith Douglass (co-chair)

Ron Allison - Alternate

Newfoundland & Labrador

Susan Wilkins

Northwest Territories

Susan Martin

Nova Scotia

Glenn Bishop

Nunavut

Roy Egbuna

Ontario

David Langille

Tim Dafoe - Alternate

Prince Edward Island

Tracy Wood

Melissa MacDonald

Betty Maclean

Quebec

vacant

Saskatchewan

Vinay Chandramohan

Yukon

Vacant

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Lindsay Rivard