



Data Governance Lab

THE CHALLENGE

Canadian municipalities are struggling with the volume and speed at which data is being collected and applied. [Research from OpenNorth](#) has identified gaps in municipal governments' collection and application of data, including a lack of data standards and frameworks. In the Indigenous context, communities are "advocating for their right to have data and information collected, by them or jointly with them that reflect their past and present realities and provide the basis for their pursuit of self-determined economic, social and cultural development". ¹

The recent developments with Sidewalk Labs and private sector leadership in the smart cities space, highlights the importance of establishing standards, frameworks and models that ensure that cities and communities can manage the availability, usability, integrity and security of data.

THE OPPORTUNITY

As a result of Infrastructure Canada's Smart Cities Challenge, communities across the country are thinking about how to leverage data to become 'smart'. With Evergreen as the Community Support Network provider for the Smart Cities Challenge, Future Cities Canada is well positioned to support these communities to refine and test data governance models that reflect the principles of the Open Smart City, as outlined in OpenNorth's [Open Smart Cities Guide](#).

THE PROCESS

Together, Evergreen and the MarS Solutions Lab will work with select communities to refine their problem statements, understand principles for good data governance for municipalities, apply the principles outlined in the [Open Smart Cities Guide](#), and pilot a local Open Smart governance model that supports on an existing program or initiative. The Lab will provide funding to the participating cities to carry out this work. The process will allow the cities to test a model, learn from one another and develop new solutions to data governance. The Lab will invite additional actors from across sectors to participate.



- **Listen (Apr 2019 – June 2019):** perform user research by speaking with 8-12 municipalities/bands and 3-6 experts in the field to test our hypothesis and refine our central questions for the lab. We will also require all municipal/band participants to fill out the OpenNorth assessment that is part of the Community Solutions Network.
- **Define and Build (May 2019 – June 2019):** Based on interviews and other insights gained from the Community Solutions Network, we will refine the program.
- **Recruit (Jun 2019– Jul 2019):** At this point we will confirm lab participants as well as refine the program design based on their unique needs and interests.
- **Implement (Aug 2019 – Feb 2020):** Convene a series of meetings, events and workshops with lab participants through a mixture of virtual and in-person engagements.
- **Wrap Up and Next Steps (Feb 2020 – Mar 2020):** Conduct a wrap up round of interviews and engagement with lab participants and prepare lessons learned report.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

- 3-4 use cases of data governance models that are emerging in Canada.
- Development of up to three governance models for cities to pilot.
- Lessons learned to be shared with broader network of municipalities, bands, other levels of government and civil society.
- Cities use governance models that balance the public good with the economic opportunity data and technology presents.
- Policy development at all levels of government that guide good governance.
- Policy recommendations for all levels of government.

FURTHER READING

[Open Smart Cities Guide](#) – OpenNorth

[A Right to the Digital City](#) – Andrew Eland and Richard Pope for Medium

CONTACT

For more information please contact Michelle German at mgerman@evergreen.ca

