

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

CC:

The Honourable Scott Brison
President of the Treasury Board
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

10 July 2017

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as Canadian organisations and individuals who have engaged with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) within Canada and/or internationally and who believe strongly in the importance of the OGP as a forum for advancing transparency, accountability and civic engagement.

We are aware that Canada has been considering playing a more active role in the leadership of the OGP first by acting as a support co-chair for one year and then as the lead country chair for another year. We are also aware that the OGP requires a decision on this imminently, while Canada has been delaying its response.

We urge Canada to take on this important role within the OGP. Although many of us have asked Canada to do better in some of the areas of focus for the OGP, at the same time we are conscious that Canada is well poised to play a leadership role within the organisation. Indeed, Canada is enjoying an unprecedentedly strong global reputation at the moment, and becoming the lead country chair would build on that in ways which would benefit both Canada and other members of the OGP. Globally and within the member countries of the OGP, civil society space is shrinking, and Canada's leadership to promote inclusion and high quality participation, both at home and abroad, can be of great value to the initiative.

Other countries have made their contribution by acting as chair and it is now Canada's turn to step up and take on this important global support role. We are willing to work with and support the government in this.

We look forward to hearing a positive announcement from Canada regarding the OGP chair position very shortly.

Signed,

Organisations:

1. Canadian Taxpayers Federation
2. Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD)
3. Open North
4. Powered by Data
5. Privacy and Access Council of Canada - Conseil du Canada de l'Accès et la vie Privée
6. Reboot
7. Rocky Mountain Civil Liberties Association
8. Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy & Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC)

Individuals:

1. Ana Brandusescu, Researcher, World Wide Web Foundation
2. Merlin Chatwin, Open Government Consultant, Researcher
3. Rob Davidson, Open Data Institute Ottawa
4. Mary Francoli, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University
5. Jury Konga, Open Knowledge Canada Ambassador
6. Tracey P. Lauriault, Assistant Professor, Critical Media and Big Data, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University
7. Panthea Lee, Co-Founder & Principal, Reboot
8. Don Lenihan, Senior Associate, Policy and Engagement, Canada 2020
9. Lindsey Marchessault Open Contracting Partnership
10. Heather Morrison, Associate Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Ottawa
11. Daniel J. Paré, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, School of Information Studies, and Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP), University of Ottawa
12. Sharon Polsky MAPP, Access & Privacy Advisor
13. Teresa Scassa, Canada Research Chair in Information Law, University of Ottawa
14. Claire Schouten, Senior Program Officer, International Budget Partnership
15. Mary-Doug Wright, Information Specialist/Consultant, Apex Information
16. Geoff Zakaib, Executive Director, Open Calgary