

# Open Source Policy CANADA



## 1

### General Information

The Government of Canada is striving to become a digital government and, in this quest, has decided upon an open source software (OSS) first approach when designing its digital solutions. All layers of government are involved in the making of OSS solutions, created by the Canadian Digital Service.

## 2

### Actors



The **Government of Canada (GOC)** has been using OSS for years, and increasingly since 2014. As part of its goal to become a digital government, the GOC not only gives preference to the use of OSS, it also releases its own source codes under Open Source Licences.



The **Canadian Open Source Software Incubator** seeks to provide developers with the funding, tools, experience, culture, and promotion necessary for running a successful OSS project.

## 3

### Policy and Legal Framework

2014

#### Directive on open government

It decrees that Canada fosters an “open by default” policy, providing clear and mandatory requirements to departments to ensure that Canadians get access to government information and data.

2018

#### Directive on Management of Information Technology, Appendix C

Where possible, OSS should be used first in Canadian public administration. It is recommended for departments to contribute all source code modifications made to third party OSS back to the community.

2020

#### First Open White Paper

Published in 2020 by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, the White Paper aims to organise the board’s ideas on how to shift government to an “Open” approach, including OSS setting standards.

## 4

### Open Source Software Initiatives



#### Government of Canada COVID Alert Mobile App:

Canada’s COVID-19 exposure notification app. It can alert Canadians to possible exposures before they have symptoms. The mobile app runs on OSS.

#### Parking Ticket System:

A tool for managing and tracking parking tickets issued by the City of Sault Ste Marie. The system interfaces with the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Transportation to handle ownership lookups and parking ticket convictions.

#### The Municipal Innovation Pilot Project:

The MIPP is an initiative aiming to support research and development of OSS solutions on all levels of the Canadian government, and to bring together all levels of governments and related groups working on OSS. The idea is to enable and support the pooling of investment for collective impact.

**mPacParser:** This project attempts to simplify filling out the Year End Tax files by converting them to more friendly formats. Currently a CSV output is provided, but the project can be adapted for other output formats. It was developed by the City of Sault Ste Marie.