

Open Data Standards

Open Data Standards

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Open Data Standards is to establish criteria for publishing data for public use, adaptation and distribution under the Open Government Licence and to set the criteria that will be measured to determine the success of the program.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the ministries of the Government of Alberta; their agencies, boards and commissions.

3. Open Data Publication Criteria

The following requirements apply generally to open data:

- 3.1. Ministries will create a data inventory and update it at least annually on an ongoing basis.
- 3.2. Ministries must establish plans for expanding public access to government data and report their progress consistent with the change management plans issued by the Open Government Program.
- 3.3. Open data plans must prioritize and expand data publication efforts on data that enables citizens and sectors to create value from government data.
- 3.4. Ministries will incorporate open principles into the entire data life cycle.
- 3.5. Only data that meets the requirements of the Open Data Approval Checklist, as issued by the Open Government Program, may be posted as open data.
- 3.6. Open data must be listed in the Open Data Portal located at data.alberta.ca and subject to the Open Government Licence.
- 3.7. Individuals must not be required to pay, register or identify themselves in order to access, use, adapt or distribute open data.

4. Open Data Requirements

The following requirements apply to the assessment of government data for inclusion in the Open Data Portal. Data may be proposed as open data if:

- 4.1. **Complete**
Data is provided in the most comprehensive manner possible.
- 4.2. **Primary**
Data are published as collected at the source, with the finest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate or modified forms.
- 4.3. **Timely**
Data are made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data.
- 4.4. **Accessible**
Data are available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes.
- 4.5. **Machine readable**

- Data are reasonably structured to allow automated processing.
- 4.6. **Access Is Non-Discriminatory**
Data are available to anyone, with no requirement of registration.
- 4.7. **Formats Are Non-Proprietary**
Data are available in a format over which no entity has exclusive control.
- 4.8. **Reusable**
Data are subject to minimal copyright, patent, trademark or trade secret regulation. Reasonable privacy, security and privilege restrictions may be allowed as governed by other statutes.

In making a determination if data are free from legal, contract or policy restrictions, and can be made available as open data, ministries must complete the Open Data Approval Checklist issued by the Open Government Program.

5. Metadata Requirements

All open data must be fully described using the Open Data Metadata Application Profile (ODMAP) so that users have sufficient information to understand the strengths, weaknesses, analytical limitations, and security requirements of the data; as well as how to process the data.

6. Allowable Formats

All open data must be published in one of the following formats unless a specific exception is granted by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Open Government, Service Alberta:

Comma-Separated Values	CSV
JavaScript Object Notation	JSON
Keyhole Markup Language	KML
Open Data Protocol	OData
Rich Site Summary	RSS
Shapefile	SHP
Web Feature Service	WFS
Web Map Service	WMS
Microsoft Excel Format	XLS, XLSX
Extensible Markup Language	XML

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

The value of open data will be realized in the long term. As the Government of Alberta publishes more open data, more services become available, tools mature, and both understanding and awareness spread. The metrics below will support the valuation and measure the success of the overall Open Information and Open Data Policy.

There are three key reporting areas to the metrics:

Value – measures the value of the information being provided to citizens.

Grow – helps the program grow and mature.

Inform – provides useful information about the program.

Reporting Area	Measure	Explanation
Value	% of highly requested datasets published.	Using a percentage allows for cross-organization comparisons as well as comparison to overall corporate goals.
Value	% of datasets that align to the G8 Open Data Charter data categories and datasets.	Section 6.2 of the G8 Open Data Charter includes categories of data that are of high value. Comparison between datasets will show what datasets are of high value. Measures the value of information that is released.
Value	% of datasets with location information.	Location information makes the information more relevant to citizens (e.g., not just school performance, but location of school and/or students).
Grow	% of legislated information published openly.	Either as open data or through the open information portal.
Grow	Average time from collection to publication.	Measures timeliness of information and identifies opportunities for improvement.
Grow	# of published datasets with citizen-identified corrections.	Opportunities to improve processes around data collection and publication.
Inform	% of datasets with regular update schedules.	Measures continuing commitment to publishing information.
Inform	# of downloads.	Traffic information.