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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA: OPEN GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION BRIEF TO THE COMMISSION

CMD 23-M38 – Open Government and the CNSC – September 21, 2023



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada



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Information brief to the Commission on Open Government

- Federal Open Government Commitments and Approach
- Open Government and the CNSC
- Focus Area: Environmental Protection Open Government Activities
- Lessons Learned
- Conclusion



International Open Government Partnership

3

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- Global multilateral initiative launched in 2011
- Currently 76 nations with an International Steering Committee
- Partnership with government, civil society and the private sector
- Focuses on transparency, accountability, integrity and citizen participation



opengovpartnership.org

Key Government of Canada Commitments

- 2012: Canada Joined international initiative
- 2014: Issued [Directive on Open Government](#)
- 2018-2019: Co-chaired International Steering Committee
- 2019: Hosted [International Open Government Partnership Summit](#)
- 2022: Published most recent Canadian [“National Action Plan on Open Government 2022–24”](#)



GoC Global Partnerships

- [OECD Working Party on Open Government](#)
- [OECD Expert Group on Open Government Data](#)
- [International Open Data Charter](#)



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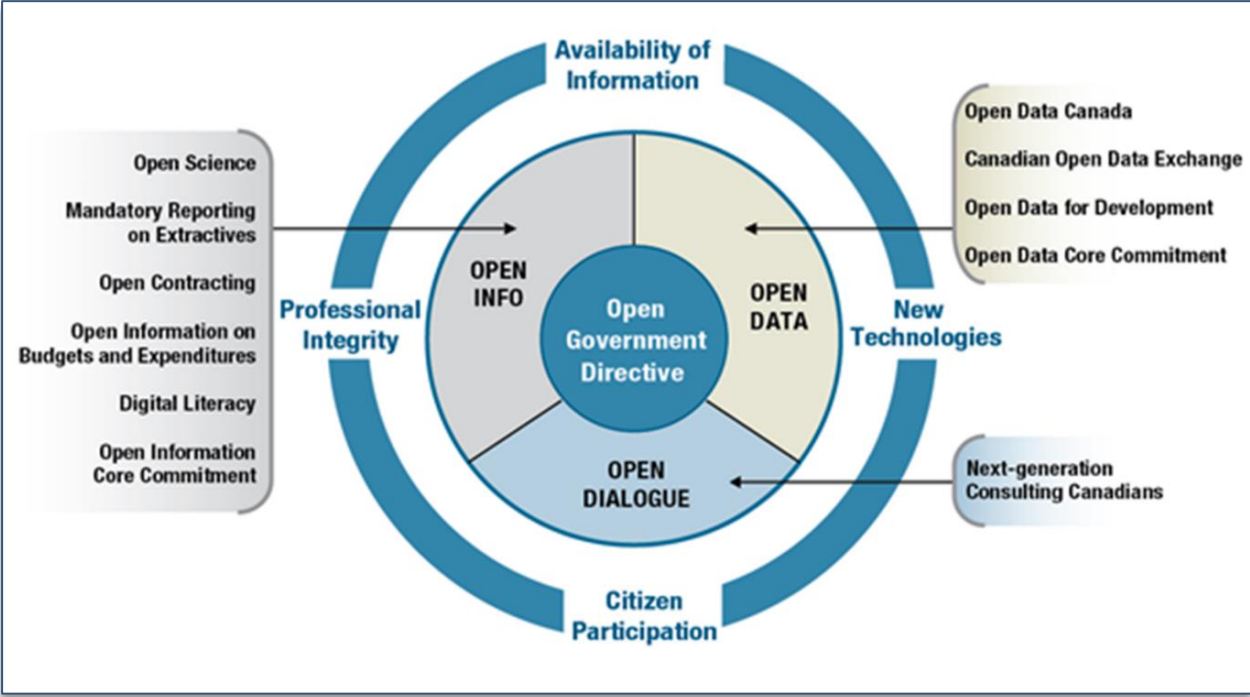
GoC Open Government Portal (OGP)

Based on Three Pillars

- Open Dialogue
- Open Information
- Open Data

open.canada.ca
OPEN GOVERNMENT

Open Data
Open Information
Open Dialogue



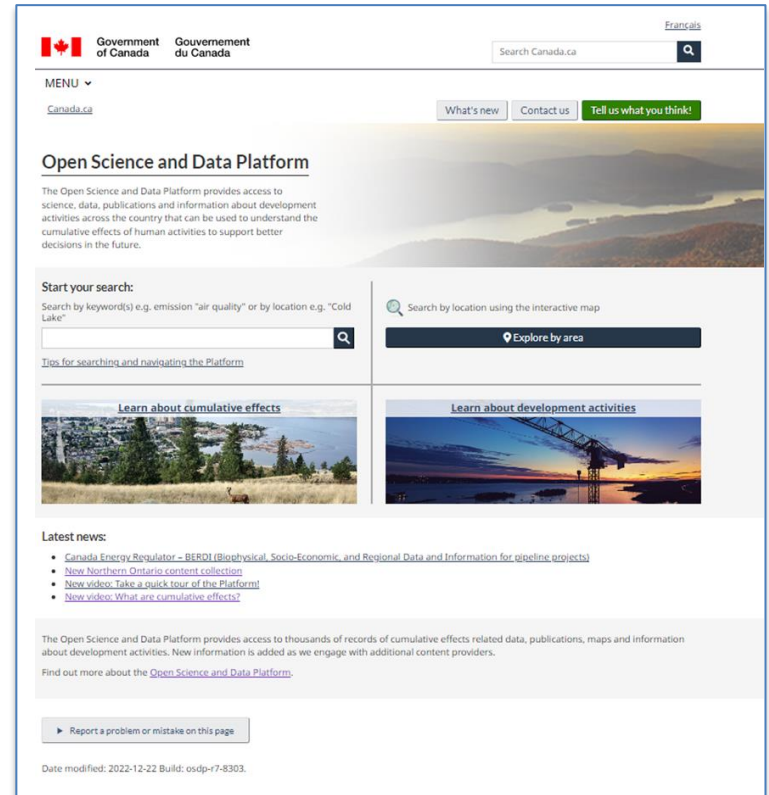
GoC Directive on Open Government requires each Department to:

- Maximize the release of GoC open data and open information
- Ensure that open data and open information is released in accessible and reusable formats
- Maximize the removal of access restrictions (security identification and categorization)
- Integrate open government requirements into the support of the delivery of programs and services



Core Principle:
Open by Default

- **Supports:** Impact Assessment Act mandate on cumulative effects
- **Created by:** Natural Resources Canada
- **Goal:** Provide a user-friendly interface for searching and retrieving data and science related to cumulative impacts, impact assessments, strategic assessments and regulatory processes
- **Launched:** March 2021 and provides access to over 146,000 records



OPEN GOVERNMENT AND THE CNSC

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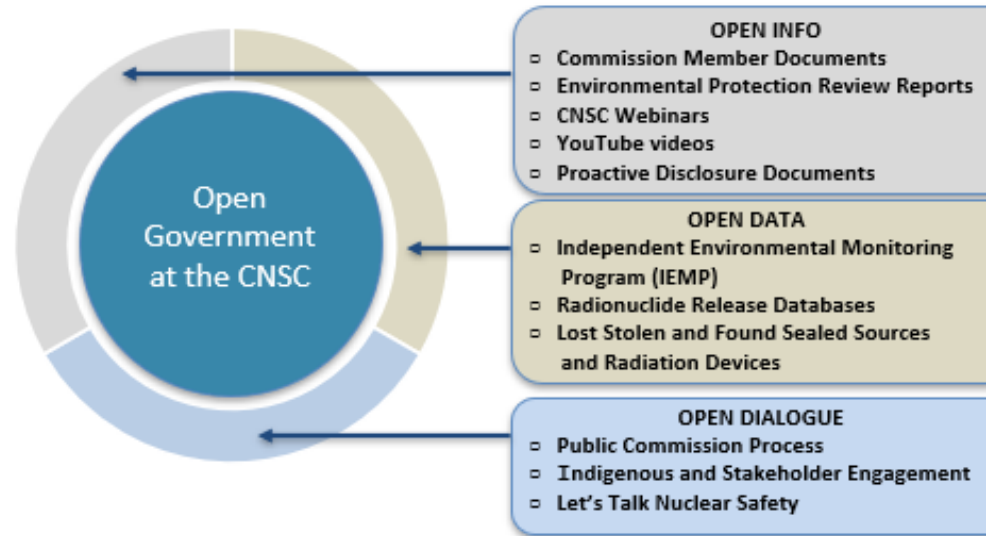
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CNSC is extensively involved in activities definable as Open Government

- **CNSC Website**
(Over 12,000 PDFs and Web Pages)
- **Proactive Disclosure** (~1,400 summaries)
- **YouTube** (~300 videos/webinars)
- **Open Government Portal (OGP)**
(27 records)
- **Open Science and Data Platform (OSDP)**
(2 content collections with 8 datasets)





CNSC Approach to Open Government

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- The CNSC’s mandate is to “disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public”
- As per the GoC Open Government Directive, the CNSC is expanding our reach to the greater Canadian public
- Guiding principle is to share the most valuable information in most cost-effective manner
- Key for CNSC is an effective set of criteria to make these decisions
- Prioritization on using existing Open Government digital spaces to support newly proposed projects

Leveraging existing Open Government digital spaces for new projects is proposed as the most efficient means of increasing public access to information/data



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Example: Darlington New Nuclear Project – Open Information

- CNSC committed to proactively sharing information that is publicly available for this project on the [Open Government Portal](#)
- Types of information shared:
 - Hyperlinks to licence application and pre-licensing submissions posted on OPG’s website
 - Formal communications between the CNSC and OPG including finalized information requests from CNSC staff and OPG responses
 - Comments received by the CNSC from the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, and other government departments and agencies, submitted through the formal comment periods on the licensing process
 - Communications from the public, Indigenous Nations and communities, non-government organizations (NGOs) and others directly tied to DNNP

CNSC Future Approach:

Review and refine the use of the Open Government Portal for new projects to increase public access to information and data

FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OPEN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

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Environmental Protection Open Government Activities are primarily completed under:

- The CNCS’s mandate to “disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public”
- Response to specific Commission or stakeholder requests
- Support to CNCS Strategic Initiatives
 - Trusted Regulator
 - Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
 - CNCS Accessibility Plan





Environmental Protection Open Government Activities

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CNSC leverages the OGP and OSDP in the following ways:

Existing Activities	Open Info (OI) Open Data (OD)	OGP	OSDP	Additional Details
Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP)	OI/OD	✓	✓	Annually updated
Radionuclide Release Database	OI	✓	✓	Annually updated
Activities Under Development				
Environmental Protection Review (EPR) Reports	OI	✓	FY23/24	Creating accessible PDF versions of existing reports
CNSC Affiliated (authored) Peer-Reviewed Scientific Publications	OI	FY23/24	FY23/24	To be posted as part of the OSDP Fall release
CNSC Regulatory Environment Databases	OD	FY23/24	FY23/24	Environment Databases for facilities located near the Ottawa River watershed
Future Activities				
CNSC Partnership Projects Related to Regional Information and Monitoring Initiatives	OI/OD	FY24/25	FY24/25	Opportunity to share content collections and their datasets including parameter trending and geospatial mapping



Objective:

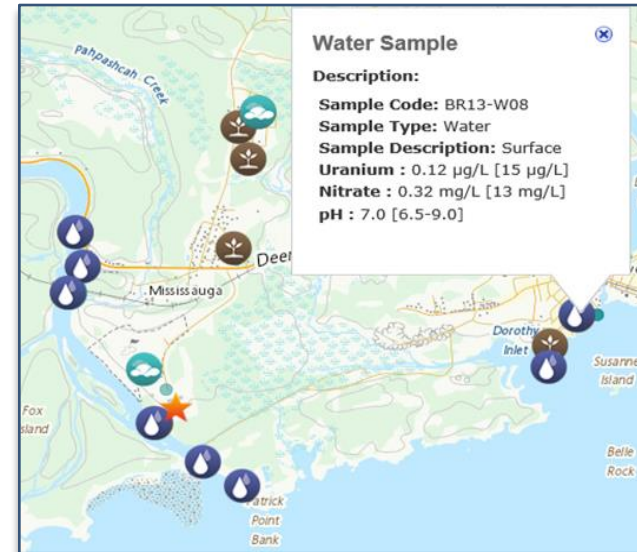
Build Indigenous and public trust via an independent, technical and accessible environmental sampling program around nuclear facilities

Accessible through:

- IEMP data resides on OGP and OSDP
- Also hosted on the CNSC [website](#) and geospatially mapped

CNSC Action:

Annually update datasets with new sampling results



Example of Geospatial Mapping on CNSC website



Radionuclide Release Database

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Includes:

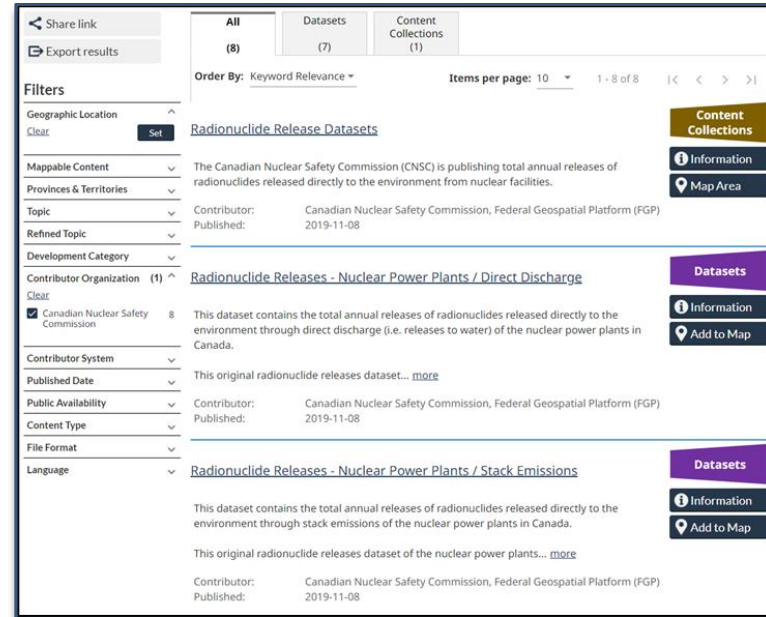
Datasets on radionuclide releases to the environment from CNSC licensed facilities

Accessible through:

- Resides on Open Government Portal
- Linked to by CNSC and National Pollutant Release Inventory ([NPRI](#)) websites
- Geospatially mapped and resides on OSDP

CNSC Action:

- Annually update datasets with new release data
- FY23/24 objective to expand postings and include a new category containing environment databases for facilities located near the Ottawa River Watershed



Example of Radioactive Release Datasets on OSDP



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FY 23/24 Objective:

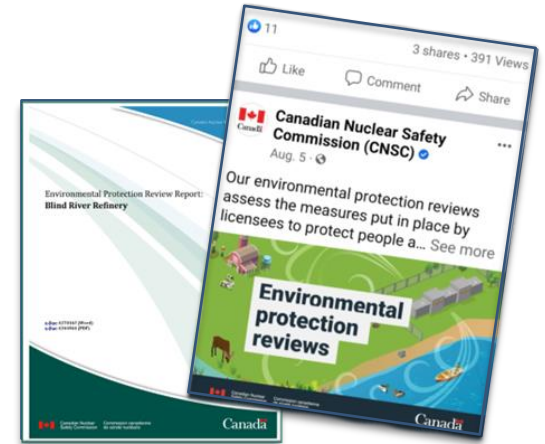
Incorporation of EPR Reports in OSDP and address stakeholder requests to provide accessible PDFs

Based on:

Science and technical assessment conducted by CNSC staff for all major licensed facilities

CNSC Action:

- Systematic review of existing EPR reports to make them accessible as PDFs



[Environmental Protection Reviews - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)



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FY 23/24 Objective:

Post curated publications database to OGP and OSDP

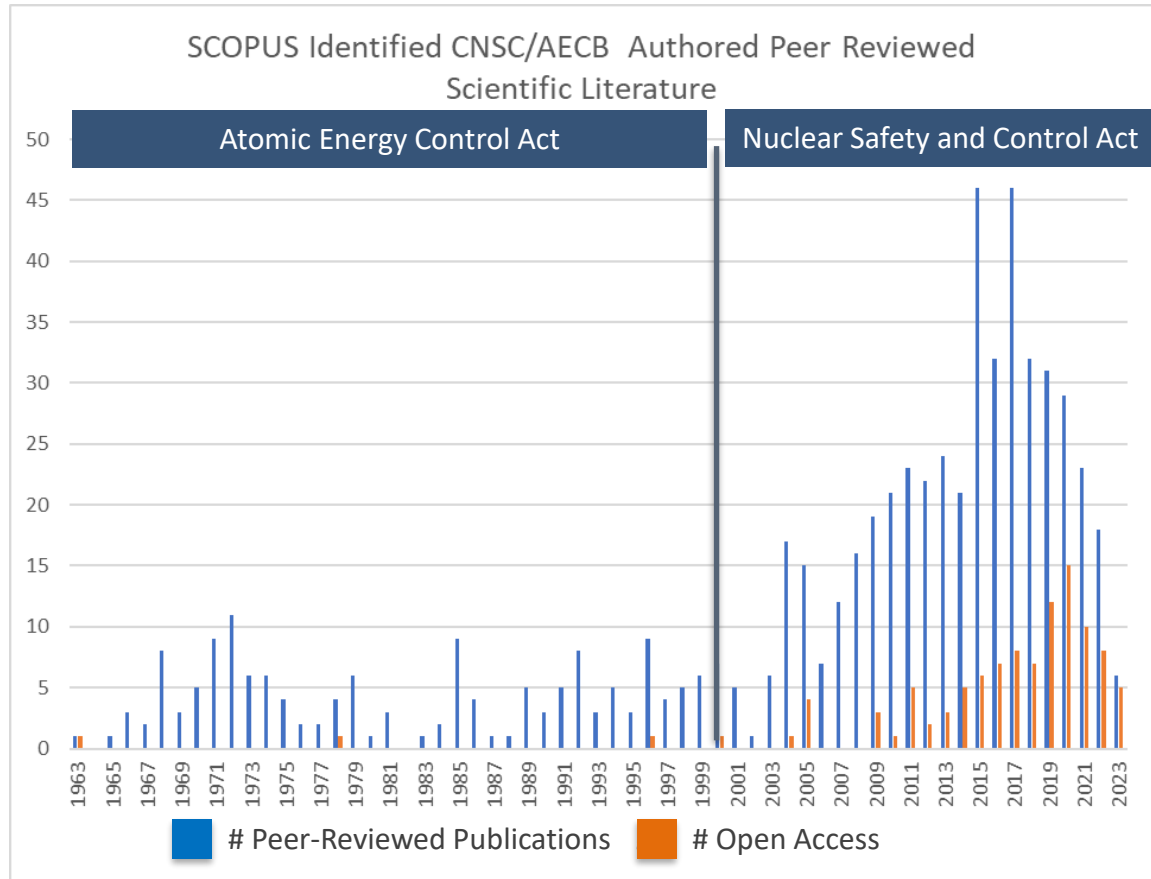
- **487 papers** published since NSCA
- **CNSC internal policy** promoting Open Access publishing

NSCA period:

~ 23% of papers published open access

2018 – present:

~47% published open access



LESSONS LEARNED AND CONCLUSION

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Lessons Learned

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- Responding to open-by-default expectations in a way that respects accessibility and official languages needs
- Requires a strategic approach to identifying Open Information (OI) and Open Data (OD) priorities
- Requires time to:
 - Understand that different platforms and software can have different publishing processes
 - Build expertise in data management and internet based interactive digital environments
 - Develop modern digital reporting and data management procedures

Key Lesson:
Post and improve rather than seek perfection and delay



In conclusion, the CNSC:

- Continues to be extensively involved in activities identifiable as Open Government
- Is leveraging existing Open Government platforms as an efficient and cost-effective way to reach the greater Canadian public
- Has identified Open Government platforms as tools that can be used to support newly proposed projects

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Appendix A: CNSC Presence on the Open Government Portal Compared to Selected Government Departments

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Department*	Total	Open Data	Open Information
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	28	15	13
Canadian Securities Intelligence Service	18	17	1
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (since 2019)	53	2	51
Canada Energy Regulator	73	61	12
Innovation Science and Economic Canada	80	73	7
Communications Security Establishment Canada	153	17	136
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	194	175	19
Transportation Safety Board	252	8	244
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	563	534	29
Environment and Climate Change Canada	967	966	1
Health Canada	2036	80	1982
Statistics Canada	8888	8859	29
Natural Resources Canada • Amongst world leaders in OD; Manager of OSDP for IAA	10048	10029	19

*No correction for organization size. Data based on OGP as of May 2023. CNSC data updated as of August 2023.



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Document/Dataset	Classification/Location
Notification of completed ATI summaries	OC – ATIP/Proactive disclosure
Presidential briefing note titles and numbers	OC – Briefings/Proactive disclosure
Fees Report for the CNSC - fiscal 2018/19	OGP/CNSC - Proactive disclosure
Fees Report for the CNSC – fiscal 2019/20	OGP/CNSC - Proactive disclosure
Administrative Monetary Penalties	OD – OGP/CNSC Website
Sealed Source Tracking System	OD – OGP/CNSC Website
Lost, Stolen and Found Sealed Sources and Radiation Devices	OD – OGP/CNSC Website
Darlington New Nuclear Project - Information and Reports Environmental Protection Review Reports (8 and increasing):	OI – OGP/CNSC Website
• Cluff lake	
• Rabbit Lake Operations	
• McArthur River Operations	
• Key Lake Operations	
• Darlington Waste Management Facility	
• Cameco Fuel Manufacturing Inc.	
• SRB Technologies	
• Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station	
• Summary Blind River Refinery	
Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (annually updated)	OD – OGP/CNSC Website
Radionuclide Release Datasets (annually updated)	OD – OGP/CNSC Website
CNSC Regulatory Environment Databases (Ottawa River Watershed)	OD - OGP

OC = Open Canada
OGP = Open Government Portal
OI = Open Information
OD = Open Data

