

# Public Service Announcement

February 02, 2015

City of Edmonton

## Can You 'Hack It'?

All hackers, developers, statisticians and residents with an interest in open data are invited to attend the [2nd Annual Open Data Day Hackathon](#) hosted by the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Public Library (EPL).



**Date:** Saturday, February 21, 2015

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Location:** EPL Makerspace, Stanley A. Miner Library  
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

**Registration:** Sign up for free online at [epl.ca/odd2015](http://epl.ca/odd2015)

*Space is limited to 45 participants. Follow the event on twitter using #ODD2015.*

"The hackathon provides a great opportunity to show residents how they can use open data to create meaningful reports, analyses and visualizations without the need for sophisticated technical skills," says David Booth, the City's IT Branch Manager. "In turn, residents will have the opportunity to give City representatives fresh ideas on how the City's open data can be used to improve the everyday lives of Edmontonians."

The hackathon is part of an [International Open Data Day](#) hackfest to encourage the adoption of open data policies by local, regional and national governments worldwide. Citizens in cities from around the world will unite and spend the day using public data to write applications, develop apps and games, create visualizations and publish analyses.

"It's exciting to come together with the City of Edmonton again to provide access to information and promote civic engagement," says Pam Ryan, Director of Collections and Technology at EPL. "After last year's success, plans have grown to also include workshops in addition to the day-long hackathon."

For residents who are interested in open data, but don't know how to 'hack it', EPL will be hosting two hour-long, drop-in workshops at Stanley A. Miner Library the week leading up to the hackathon. These sessions, facilitated by Alexandra Carruthers, EPL's Digital Public Spaces Librarian and Matt Dance, Geographer and Open Data Advocate, are designed to provide interested residents with a basic introduction to open data hackathons.

### [Intro to Hackathons: Hacking for Non-Hackers](#)

**Tuesday, February 17, 12-12:45 p.m.**

This workshop will provide tips for non-coders interested in the many ways they can meaningfully participate in an open data hackathon.

### [Levelling the Playing Field: Using Open Data to Better Understand Edmonton](#)

**Thursday, February 19, 12-12:45 p.m.**

This workshop will explore open datasets and simple tools that can help create a better understanding of Edmonton.

*Workshops developed for beginners with basic computer literacy.  
Lunch not provided, but bagged lunches welcome.*



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