Edmonton shows global leadership in open government

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Edmonton is the first municipality in Canada and the United States to adopt the International Open Data Charter, a global action network that aims to provide governments with best practice and principles to achieve international standards to open government. City Council adopted the charter on March 7, 2017.

"As a city, we have been at the forefront of the open government movement in both Canada and the United States," says Wendy Gnenz, Branch Manager for Open City and Innovation. "Edmonton constantly looks for opportunities to align itself with global best practices. Adopting the International Open Data Charter reinforces Edmonton as a city that strives for global leadership in furthering its advancement of open government and citizen engagement."

Across Canada, the release of open data by municipal and provincial governments is rapidly growing. Given this momentum, there is a need to assess the policies that guide open data and ensure a framework is in place to support open and innovative data. The adoption of the Charter, Edmonton's Open City Policy and Open Data Strategy will ensure there is a focus on transparent, collaborative, inclusive and innovative government.

Edmonton has received national and international recognition for its leadership in open government. The City of Edmonton has recently been awarded the 2016 Canadian Open Data Award for Accessibility by the Open Data Society of BC and Open North, Canada's Most Open City for 2015 and 2016 by Public Sector Digest, the Medal for Excellence in Service Delivery by GTEC and is among the seven finalists for a global Intelligent Community of the Year award. In June, Edmonton will host the 2017 Canadian Open Data Summit.

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