Data Standards: From Strategy to Practice

At Global Affairs Canada (GAC) data is a valuable strategic assets.
It powers decision-making, policy development, and program delivery.
But to be useful, **data must be trustworthy, accessible, and well-managed**.
This is where our **new enterprise data standards** come in.

What Data Standards do?

Data standards are the foundation for turning raw information into trusted insights that support better decisions across the department. They:

- ✓ Provide a **common framework and structure** to make data understandable consistent and trusted across the department;
- ✓ Foster a **unified, organization-wide approach** to managing data;
- ✓ Enable teams to **harness the real potential of data**.

GAC's 3 Data Standards

Introduced over the past year, each standards serves a distinct purpose, yet together form a **robust**, **cohesive and foundational framework** for managing data across the department - one that supports better decisions, consistent practices, and a shared understanding of information at every level.

Promoted & Certified Data Standard

- Assurance that datasets meet high standards of quality, reliability and usability.
- Accuracy | Completeness| Timeliness | Stewardship.
- **Authoritative datasets ready for use**.

Dataset Development - Official Languages Compliance Standard

- Guarantee that datasets meet the official languages legal & ethical obligations.
- Bilingualism | Language Neutrality | Access
- **Inclusive data access to all stakeholders.**

Data Dictionary Standard

- Provision of a consistent, homogeneous and reusable dataset structure.
- Documentation | Standardization | Templates | Governance
- **Improved consistency** that enables **better collaboration and interoperability**.

For more info

👉 Check out the full documentation for each standard here or contact us if you have questions.

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