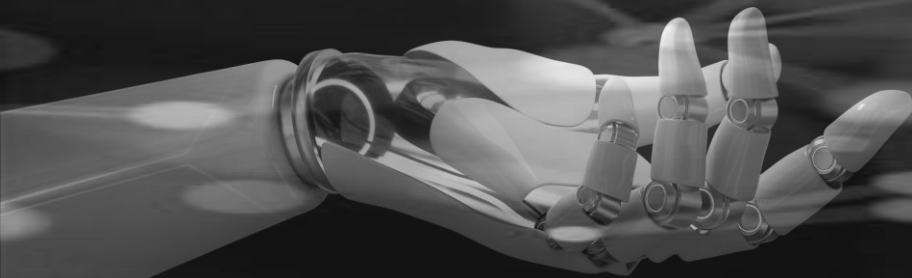




ETHICS IN DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

February 2025



Purpose

Provide an overview of how the GC is ensuring ethical considerations in the approach to data use and AI adoption that aligns and supports the code of Values and Ethics for the Public Service



Context

The need for responsible data and AI

Our behaviours influence our outcomes

Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector:

- Outlines the value and ethics that underline our role as federal public servants, in supporting the government and serving Canadians
- Sets out Respect for Democracy, Respect for People, Integrity, Stewardship, Excellence as the core values underpinning the federal public service

Data and AI changing the Public Sector:

- Data and AI is changing the way the public service offers services, conducts science and research, protects our interests and people, and assists with back-office functions.

The values and ethics code will help to guide changes brought by the application of data and AI innovation, leading to outcomes that are more effective, fair and just.



Data and Ethical Considerations in AI Policy

Existing tools to support responsible data and AI use

Data is foundational to the GC's strong ethical focus in our AI policy toolset.

The Directive on Automated Decision-Making

- Sets out rules for how federal departments and agencies must **manage risks when using automated systems and leads to more efficient, accurate, consistent and interpretable decisions**
- Includes requirements to **ensure transparency, accountability, the protection of personal information and procedural fairness**

Algorithmic Impact Assessment

- Supports federal officials in **identifying, assessing, and mitigating risks associated with the use of AI in decision-making and promotes transparency in the Government's use of AI systems that impact Canadians and other clients**

Guide on the Use of Generative AI

- Includes the “**FASTER**” principles (Fair, Accountable, Secure, Transparent, Educated, Relevant) to promote the responsible use of generative AI tools by federal employees



AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service

Advancing responsible AI use in the public service

- In May 2024, the GC launched a consultation process to shape the first-ever AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service
- At its foundation, the proposed Strategy will rest on four tenets, that support responsible AI adoption: **Human-centred, Collaborative, Ready, and Trusted**
- Key recommendations from the initial consultations include the need to foster trust, highlight data as the key enabler to AI, prioritize openness and transparency, and build an AI-ready workforce
- These consultations are informing the drafting of the AI Strategy
- Data and ethical considerations are woven through the tenets of the Strategy as we continue, through this strategy, to shape our approach to AI adoption



Key Tenet: Trusted

An ethical foundation for data in the AI Strategy

The intention is to codify fair and inclusive ethical practices within the AI Strategy that are informed by and meet the needs of diverse communities by ensuring:

- AI adoption, enabled by strong data stewardship, promotes equitable access, prevents bias and discrimination, and ensures transparency and accountability by clearly communicating AI use and responsibilities
- Priority is given to privacy protection, safety, and human rights, while enhancing Canada's security by mitigating risks and using AI to protect against threats



“Trusted” in Action

What could this look like?

- **Responsible and Ethical:** Establish a standardized process for reporting on project alignment with user needs and government goals, while creating boards and partnerships for ethical AI project reviews
- **Transparent and Accountable:** Public reporting of GC AI use cases, creation of an AI oversight role in the GC, ensuring plain language descriptions informing clients about AI use, and recourse options
- **Privacy focused:** Supplementing guidance on AI and privacy to help address the complexities of personal information and AI systems covering training models, re-identification risks, and individual's rights to be informed and correct their data
- **Responsible experimentation:** Innovation will be key starting with small, low risk initiatives and progress to projects with more impactful outcomes to our clients as we grow our AI maturity.

What can I do now?

Need to ask more questions

- **Consult with Experts:** Engage within your department or externally to discuss data and ethical considerations of a particular AI use case
- **Reach out to TBS OCIO :** Contact with the TBS Office of the Chief Information Officer for assistance, guidance, or collaboration on data and AI-related matters. The latest information can be found on [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca)

Accessibility

As of the date of publication, this presentation has been verified for accessibility.

If you have any issues with this document, please contact the author.