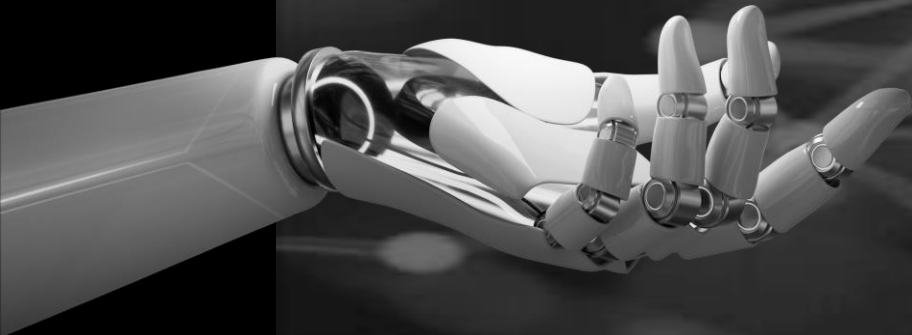




ETHICS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



09.2024

Purpose

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



Context

The need for responsible AI

Our behaviours influence our outcomes

Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector:

- Outlines the values and expected behaviours that strengthen the ethical culture of the public sector and contribute to public confidence

AI changing the Public Sector:

- 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 AI innovation, leading to outcomes that are more effective, fair and just.



Ethical Considerations in AI Policy

Existing tools to support responsible AI use

The GC has a 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 rests 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, prioritize openness and transparency, and build an AI-ready workforce
- These consultations are informing the drafting of the AI Strategy
- Ethical considerations are woven through the tenets of the Strategy which will shape our approach to AI adoption in the years to come



Key Tenet: Trusted

An ethical foundation for 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 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

What can I do now?

How to ensure an ethical approach

- **Support ethical AI use:** Connect early on with policy frameworks and guidelines that ensure artificial intelligence is developed and utilized in a manner that respects human rights and values
- **Consult with Experts:** Engage within your department or externally to discuss 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 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.