

Monday, October 9, 2017

Jean-Noé Landry
Executive Director
OpenNorth | Nord Ouvert
602-5445 de Gaspé ave.
Montréal, QC
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Dear Selection Committee,

OpenNorth is nominating its Executive Director, Jean-Noé Landry, to become a member of the Canadian Multi-stakeholder Forum on open government. As one of Canada's leading non-profit organisations in open data and open government, OpenNorth has advocated for the opening of data ever since our founding in 2011, and were party to the interim committee responsible for creating this very Forum.

Our motivation to apply is clear. Since its inception OpenNorth has promoted new forms of engagement via digital tools and data. It is our sincere belief that government reforms need to be systematic, standardised, and engaging of citizens. We believe open government provides the ideal conceptual and ideological framework for OpenNorth. Our mission is to promote open, accountable, and strong governance, create and sustain government accountability that is responsive citizens' data needs through digital and policy tools, and finally to build tools that educate and empower citizens to engage in local decision making in an active and meaningful way.

Our work touches upon all aspects of the Open Government Declaration, including data, technology, participation, and government integrity. OpenNorth is actively engaged in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), having participated in global and regional OGP Summits. We are an official Steward of the Open Data Charter, participate in the Charter's Implementation Working Group and advise the Government of Ontario Charter Implementation Working Group. We co-lead the standards stream of the OGP's Open Data Working Group. We play an advisory role in the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency (GIFT), and support and promote standards initiatives such as Open Corporates, Open Contracting, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) through national and international networks.

We welcome the opportunity to bring the outcomes of these international engagements back to the Canadian Multi-stakeholder Forum. Jean-Noé Landry is a Canadian and internationally recognized civil society expert on open government. He has more than 15 years of professional experience working in government, political parties, legislatures, civil society, and internationally with leading democratic development organizations.

OpenNorth itself traces some of its origins back to Montreal Ouvert and QuebecOuvert, the main citizen led initiative that advocated for the City of Montreal to adopt an open data policy. With that mission complete, OpenNorth continued to advocate for open data across Canada. While OpenNorth established itself as leader in Canada, while maintaining relationships with leading open data and civic tech organizations around the world such as SunlightFoundation, OpenKnowledge, and MySociety.

Our strategy has changed over the years. We have developed open data portals using CKAN, and a participatory budgeting tool called Citizen Budget (implemented in over 80 governments in North America). Citizen Budget creates a two-way, informed dialogue between citizen and government by communicating government's existing or proposed budget to the public (providing education on the opportunity costs that arise when creating a budget). For us, tools such as Citizen Budget or open data are only successful if they promote better citizen engagement in the long-term through other media, and close gaps in awareness and data literacy.

We believe a combined, Canada-wide approach to open government, from both governments and civil society organisations that consult and assist in implementation, is the best way forward. Our work takes us to all levels of jurisdiction in Canada. We align our national and sub-national work with Canada's Directive on Open Government and international norms. For example, our current work with the City of Toronto to develop their Open Data Master Plan and Roadmap is based on the Open Data Charter's (ODC) six principles.

We aid Federal Government institutions with research and implementing open data. Earlier in 2017, we were contracted by the National Energy Board of Canada to conduct a data user engagement project, which involved mapping their open data user needs and providing guidance for policy-level implementations. Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) we are coordinating the State of Open Data, which assesses of the international open data movement's progress. The publication will be launched at next year's International Open Data Conference 2018.

We have also been engaged to research and provide guidance on open data standards over the years, including a report identifying recommended standards and best practices for open data for IDRC's Open Data for Development programme, and another report that analysed gaps and opportunities for standardisation in all OGP members' open data catalogues. Our interest in standards is not purely academic. We also maintain three standards: Popolo, Represent API, and Open511. Our other areas of focus include: open smart cities, urban resilience, indigenous data sovereignty, and rural open data. We bring an open data and open government lens to each and every issue we engage in.

We also aim to help our fellow civil society organisations. We organised the Canada Open Data Summit 2015 in Ottawa. We continue to be involved in its programming and organizing committees to help scale the open data community. We provide a technical solution for fellow civil society organisations in the form of Represent API. This is an Application Programming Interface provided to the public (for free) to query a comprehensive database of Canada's elected officials and their jurisdictions, used by more than 20 national-level advocacy campaigns. In Montreal, we partnered with the City of Montreal to launch a civic tech event series, which will bring in members of the community to discuss and work towards solving discrete civic problems.

Open government is not just a project for the biggest institutions. More recently, we created a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) toolkit, co-created with 15 Canadian cities (and funded by the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada), to give guidance to Canadian municipalities who have yet to initiate their own open data programmes. This free toolkit, to be hosted on the Government of Canada's open government website, exemplifies our desire to promote a whole-of-government approach to open government.

To conclude, OpenNorth believes its contributions to Canadian civil society have been substantial and we will continue to support and advocate for civil society involvement in government decision making. We look forward to engaging with you as a member of the Canadian Multi-stakeholder Forum.

Yours Sincerely,



Jean-Noé Landry

Executive Director
OpenNorth

Jean-Noé Landry

Social Entrepreneur and Executive Director at Open North

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Summary

My current leadership role at Open North draws on years of international and local experience strengthening democratic processes and institutions. I've had the opportunity to work in Croatia, Serbia, Russia, Afghanistan, the West Bank, Kenya, and more recently in Algeria, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Morocco. Here in Canada, since co-founding Montreal Ouvert and Quebec Ouvert in 2010, I've enjoyed educating governments and legislators on open data as Open North's Director of Strategic Initiatives, and supporting civil society find collaborative and innovative ways to overcome barriers to citizen engagement. I'm especially passionate about building networks and negotiating partnerships, designing applied research projects, advising tech initiatives, and leading advocacy campaigns at different levels of jurisdictions. Recently, I also co-founded Connexité-MTL, a data-driven social innovation incubator, and helped established the Canadian Open Government Civil Society Network in response to the lack of effective dialogue mechanism with the Canadian Government on open government issues.

Areas of Expertise:

- Open governance, including open data and transparency issues;
 - Strategic planning, campaign management;
 - Systems change and movement building;
 - Program design, management, and evaluation;
 - Stakeholder outreach, coalition and network building;
 - Social and civic innovation, smart cities;
 - Training, facilitation, and negotiating;
 - Online community and citizen engagement;
 - Applied quantitative and qualitative research.
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Experience

International Open Data Charter Stakeholder Advisory Group Member at Ontario Government

March 2017 - Present

As part of Ontario's participation in the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) subnational pilot program, the province has worked with the public, non-government organizations and community groups to develop its open government commitments. The volunteer advisory group deliberates and assesses Ontario's OGP commitments and helps create awareness of the province's work to become a more open and transparent government, including the adoption of the International Open Data Charter (<http://opendatacharter.net/>)

Steering Committee Member

March 2016 - Present

The Canadian Open Government Partnership Civil Society Network was established to promote dialogue on open government issues between the Government of Canada and Canadian civil society. For more information: www.opengovdialogue.ca/ If you have any questions or would like to join the network as a civil society organization or an individual, contact join@opengovdialogue.ca

Co Founder at Connexité Montréal

October 2015 - Present

Connexité is a social innovation incubator designed to foster the emergence of projects and initiatives in response to specific needs and local issues through citizen-led collaboration and data-driven problem solving. Connexité facilitates co-design workshops, organizes tailored coaching sessions, and offers technical guidance to the multidisciplinary teams who participate in each of its cohorts.

Executive Director at Open North

September 2015 - Present

Open North is a Montreal-based Canadian nonprofit that helps governments become more transparent, accountable, and responsive in the digital age. We believe that governments and citizens can collaborate more meaningfully with one another to improve the quality of governance and the services citizens receive. Through our websites, we demonstrate how governments can better involve citizens in democratic processes, and help people rethink what institutions are, how they work. Through our consulting work, we build knowledge and capacity and assist clients through a process of change in culture and behaviour. Our work is open source and non-partisan.

Consultant and Senior Field Staff at National Democratic Institute (NDI)

September 2003 - December 2015 (12 years 4 months)

- Advise and train governments and parties on open governance, civic engagement, and open data;
- Voter contact and election campaign preparation, planning, and management;
- Design and conduct applied qualitative and quantitative research projects;
- Civic and political party election monitoring capacity building and technical support;
- Policy development, strategic communication, and messaging;
- Political party building, including strengthening women and youth engagement;
- Program design, monitoring and evaluation;

Director Strategic Initiatives and Outreach at Open North

May 2014 - September 2015 (1 year 5 months)

- Raise funds from governments and private foundations
- Create and provide training courses on open data
- Increase awareness of and engagement with Open North and its projects
- Strengthen strategic relationships with governments, businesses and civil society

Board Member at Institut du Nouveau Monde

September 2014 - August 2015 (1 year)

L'Institut du Nouveau Monde (INM) est un organisme non partisan dont la mission est d'accroître la participation des citoyens à la vie démocratique. Les principaux champs d'expertise de l'INM sont: la participation citoyenne, la démocratie participative, l'acceptabilité sociale, la gouvernance participative, l'entrepreneuriat social, l'innovation sociale, et la gouvernance ouverte.

President of the Board

March 2011 - March 2015 (4 years 1 month)

Through a systems change approach, the Centre for Community Organizations (COCO) promotes social justice, active citizenship, democracy, and just socio-economic development by supporting the development of healthy organizations and strong communities through education.

Civil Society Representative at Task Force on Democracy, Ville de Montréal

June 2012 - February 2015 (2 years 9 months)

The Task Force led the creation of Montreal's Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, the Right of Initiative to Public Consultations, and serves as a deliberative body on participatory democracy.

Co-Founder

February 2012 - June 2014 (2 years 5 months)

Québec Ouvert is an umbrella group of different municipal open data citizen initiatives across the province of Québec. It promotes open data, organises public events, and supports local initiatives.

Co-Founder

June 2010 - June 2014 (4 years 1 month)

Montreal Ouvert is Montreal's foremost citizen led open data initiative. It pushed for the adoption of an open data policy and actively promotes the benefits of open data while expanding the community.

Training and Education at Parliament of Canada

August 2011 - February 2014 (2 years 7 months)

Responsible for training parliamentary staff members on community outreach, issue based campaigns and mobilisation techniques, constituency relations, internal and external communication. I also advised the digital critics on open government, access to information, and open data issues.

Civil Society Representative at Open Data Working Group, Ville de Montréal

March 2012 - November 2013 (1 year 9 months)

The ODWG brought together senior city representatives and leading members of Montreal's open data community to support local open data initiatives and deliberate about the city's open data action plan.

Workshop Facilitator at McGill University School of Continuing Studies

May 2012 - May 2012 (1 month)

This workshop series analysed the democratic disengagement trends from around the world while proposing a range of solutions for renewed citizen participation, including through the innovative use of technology.

Facilitator at University of the Streets, Concordia University

October 2009 - October 2009 (1 month)

As part of the University of the Streets program, facilitated an open community discussion on trust and perception of political parties and citizen engagement

Consultant Researcher at Parliamentary Centre

May 2009 - June 2009 (2 months)

Conducted a comparative study of federal Canadian parliamentary research services with recommendations for Pakistani civic and legislative program partners.

Policy Analyst and Advisor

March 2008 - December 2008 (10 months)

Working at the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development as a member of the Democracy Unit, I provided policy and programming advice on political party development and electoral processes in fragile and war affected situations, including Afghanistan.

Author, Editor-in-Chief at National Endowment for Democracy

November 2006 - December 2007 (1 year 2 months)

As part of a NDI grant, collected and analysed best practices from 25 programs, and co-wrote an applied quantitative research manual for democracy development programming

Regional Complaints Officer (Elections Complaints Commission ECC) at United Nations Office for Project Services

September 2005 - November 2005 (3 months)

Processed elections related complaints for cases adjudicated by members of the ECC, and conducted a performance evaluation of selected regional offices.

Program Manager at Canadian Center for Foreign Policy Development

2002 - 2002 (1 year)

Received and evaluated policy development project applications, organised thematic roundtables, authored policy reports.

Education

E-Cornell

Online Courses, Conflict Resolution, 2010 - 2010

Trinity College, Dublin

MPhil, Peace and Conflict Studies, 2002 - 2003

Carleton University

BHum, Humanities, 1997 - 2001