

Date: May 11, 2021

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Shawn Slack, MBA, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Originator's files:

Meeting date:  
June 9, 2021

## **Subject**

**Open Data Policy Revision**

## **Recommendation**

That the proposed revisions to the Open Data Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the corporate report entitled, "Open Data Policy Revision", dated May 11, 2021, from the Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services Department and Chief Financial Officer be approved.

## **Executive Summary**

- The revisions proposed for the City's Open Data Policy includes the adoption of the six (6) International Open Data Charter (IODC) Principles, including Open by Default.
- Adopting the IODC Principles benefits the City in multiple ways including increasing transparency, improving trust in government, streamlining the flow of information, improving citizen engagement, allowing for more innovation, and continuing to place Mississauga as a leading municipality on the world's stage.

## **Background**

Open Data is defined as a piece of data or content that is open for anyone to use, reuse, and redistribute and is free to use. Open Data is structured data that is machine-readable which makes it useful for reuse and manipulation to create apps, perform analysis or generate reports. PDF reports are not considered Open Data although this type of information can be supportive to meeting the broader objectives of openness and transparency.

Over the years, the City of Mississauga has developed an outstanding Open Data Program.

In March 2010, the City of Mississauga adopted Open Data with the launch of Mississauga Data on the City's website ([www.mississauga.ca](http://www.mississauga.ca)). Mississauga Data was developed to provide free and open data products for staff, Council, and the public.

In 2012, the IT Plan 2.0 recommended the development of an Open Data Policy to help drive the City's Open Data Program. The first and current rendition of the Open Data Policy was approved by Council in June 2015. The development and implementation of the internal Open Data Guidelines document helped to guide members of the Open Data Working Group with the implementation of the Open Data Policy.

In 2016, the new Open Data Portal, [www.data.mississauga.ca](http://www.data.mississauga.ca), was created allowing for the expansion of the City's Open Data Program. Currently, there are over 200+ datasets published. The 2019-2022 Open Data Roadmap outlines the strategy for enhancing the City's Open Data Program. One of the aims of this Roadmap is to help drive Mississauga's open data practices to a philosophy of 'Open by Default'.

The next steps for an established open data program is to adopt the international standards guiding the future of open data, the IODC principles. Currently under the umbrella of Smart City, Mississauga's Open Data Program now has the support to take this step forward.

## Comments

The IODC is a collaboration of 100+ governments and organizations that have worked together to develop six key open data principles. The proposed revision to the Open Data Policy includes the adoption of the following six IODC principles:

- Open by default
- Timely and comprehensive
- Accessible and useable
- Comparable and interoperable
- For improved governance and citizen engagement, and
- For inclusive development and innovation

A detailed breakdown of the proposed changes to the Open Data Policy can be found in Appendix 2.

A number of Canadian government organizations have already adopted the IODC in their Open Data policies including the Federal Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, Province of British Columbia, City of Edmonton and the City of Toronto.

Revising our current Open Data Policy to adopt these six IODC Principles benefits the City in multiple ways including increasing transparency, improving trust in government, streamlining the flow of information, improving citizen engagement, allowing for more innovation, and continuing to place Mississauga as a leading municipality on the world's stage.

## Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from the recommendations in this report.

## Conclusion

By adopting the IODC in the Open Data Policy, the City of Mississauga would continue to be a leading municipality in the world of open data.

## Attachments

Appendix 1: 2021 03 30 – Revised Draft – Open Data Program – 03-12-02

Appendix 2: 2021 03 30 – Comparison and Rationale – Open Data Program – 03-12-02



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