

[Canada.ca](#) › [About Canada.ca](#) › [Design](#)

Canada.ca design

Template and pattern library for Canada.ca

These patterns and page layouts have been user-tested. They were designed to help you develop digital content focused on the task people are trying to accomplish.

Answer a few questions to find the right pattern

All templates and patterns

▼ Filter options

Pattern, template or style

All



Types

All



Mandatory or suggested







All






Filter

[Reset to defaults](#)

Filter items

Name  	When to use this pattern	Category  	Type  
About the institution	A section on an institutional landing page that provides links to corporate, program and policy information.	Design pattern	Institutional
Basic page layout	The basic layout for Canada.ca pages.	Template	Destination
Breadcrumb trail	Represents the location of the current page as it stands in relation to the site's user navigation model - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site, Interaction, Navigation
Buttons	Buttons are clickable objects intended to encourage a person to take action	Design pattern	Interaction, Visual
Campaign page	Gives information to support a promotional campaign. Use to support institutional, theme or GC (Government of Canada)-wide promotional campaigns that last for a set period of time. Don't use for core content.	Template	Promotion
Canada.ca domain	The primary domain for the Government of Canada's public-facing web presence.	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern
Carousels	Use this component for situations such as image or video galleries.	Design pattern	Promotion, Visual

	When to use this pattern		
<u>Charts and graphs</u>	Use as visualization techniques for communicating data or statistics	Design pattern	Visual
<u>Checkboxes and radio buttons</u>	Allow people select an answer to a question or confirm completion.	Design pattern	Interaction, Visual
<u>Colours</u>	Colours for Canada.ca - Mandatory style	Style	Site-wide pattern, Visual
<u>Consultation profile page</u>	Describes a consultation or engagement activity. Provides the status and outcome of the initiative, background material, data and information about planned or completed events.	Template	Destination
<u>Contact information</u>	Use to present contact information on Canada.ca page	Design pattern	Institutional
<u>Contact us band</u>	Provides relevant contact information	Design pattern	
<u>Contact us page</u>	Provides models for contact options on Canada.ca. Use to present contact information for a person, an office, an organization or an emergency.	Template	Institutional
<u>Context-specific features</u>	Use to promote activities, initiatives, programs, and services	Design pattern	Promotion, Visual



When to use this pattern






<u>Contextual alerts</u>	Use to present important new information that needs to appear in a pre-existing context	Design pattern	Visual
<u>Contributors</u>	Use to link to institutions or organizations that support the content on the page	Design pattern	Institutional
<u>Data tables</u>	Use to communicate data	Design pattern	Visual
<u>Date modified</u>	Indicates how recently the content of a web page has been updated - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern
<u>Departments and agencies page</u>	Provides links to all federal government institutions	Template	Government-wide template
<u>Download links</u>	Use to reference and link to non-HTML files	Design pattern	Visual
<u>Expand/Collapse</u>	Use to hide secondary content until requested	Design pattern	Interaction
<u>Faceted finder page</u>	Use to present a list of 100+ related links that can be filtered using metadata and may require results to be split across multiple pages. Use when there is a need to allow people to build more complex queries against a large number of results. Shows the number of results using facets.	Template	Navigation



When to use this pattern



<u>Featured link</u>	A short, descriptive link that your institution needs to feature prominently on a landing page.	Design pattern	Promotion
<u>Finder page</u>	Use to present a list of 100+ related links that can be filtered using metadata and may require results to be split across multiple pages. Use when there is a need to allow people to build simpler queries against large amount of results.	Template	Navigation
<u>GC Feedback</u>	GC Feedback is an optional pattern to collect feedback on the page experience. It should only be used on pages where the feedback will be actively monitored and actioned.	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction
<u>Global footer</u>	The site-wide footer at the bottom of each web page, includes the contextual band, the main band and the sub-footer band - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction
<u>Global header</u>	The global (site-wide) header at the top of each web page - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction

	When to use this pattern		
<u>Government of Canada signature</u>	The Government of Canada signature as specified in Federal Identity Program (FIP) policy instruments is prominently featured in the global header area across Canada.ca - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Visual
<u>Government-wide audience page</u>	Gives access to information and services relevant to a government-wide audience - Mandatory template	Template	Theme template
<u>Guidance on legislation profile page</u>	Gives access to guidance on legislation. Gives access to details and related materials.	Template	Destination
<u>Home page</u>	Shows the Government of Canada's most visited and important products and services	Template	Government-wide template, Navigation
<u>Icons</u>	Use as symbols to communicate actions or states	Design pattern	Visual
<u>Images</u>	Use to complement or enhance text	Design pattern	Visual
<u>In-page table of contents</u>	List of links that lead to subsections of the same page	Design pattern	Navigation
<u>Institutional byline</u>	Use to link to the institution responsible for the content	Design pattern	Institutional

↑ ↓	When to use this pattern	↑ ↓	↑ ↓
<u>Institutional landing page</u>	Home page of each Government of Canada institution - Mandatory template	Template	Institutional, Navigation
<u>Institutional service performance reporting page</u>	Use to present all service standards from an institution, as per the requirements in the Policy on Service	Template	Institutional
<u>Interactive questions</u>	Use to present a sequence of simple questions that leads to answer needed to continue or complete task	Design pattern	Destination, Navigation
<u>Introduction block</u>	Introduces the content of a landing page.	Design pattern	
<u>Labels</u>	Labels are visual indicators that assign a tag to items such as events, products, programs or services	Design pattern	Visual
<u>Language toggle link</u>	Gives people access to site content in either French or English - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction
<u>Latest news</u>	Use this pattern to display the most recent Government of Canada newsroom items directly associated with the content of the page.	Design pattern	Institutional
<u>Layouts</u>	Layouts for Canada.ca - Mandatory style	Style	Site-wide pattern, Visual

↑ ↓	When to use this pattern	↑ ↓	↑ ↓
<u>Long index page</u>	Use to present a list of 50+ related links without descriptions	Template	Navigation
<u>Minister or institutional head</u>	Identifies the relevant Minister(s) or head(s) for a department, agency or organization. It provides links to the official bio for an institution's minister(s), associate minister(s), or institutional head, and may also include a headshot or links to mandate letters and briefing materials.	Design pattern	Institutional
<u>Ministerial profile page</u>	Gives an overview of the biography and links to the minister's recent activities and announcements, and social media channels - Mandatory template	Template	Institutional
<u>More information for</u>	Use to connect to a related government-wide audience	Design pattern	Navigation
<u>Most requested</u>	Use to feature top tasks related to the page it is on	Design pattern	Navigation
<u>Multimedia (video and audio)</u>	Use to complement or enhance text	Design pattern	Visual
<u>News landing page</u>	Gives access to Government of Canada's news products	Template	Government-wide template
<u>News product page</u>	Allows people to read a news product - Mandatory template	Template	Institutional



When to use this pattern



<u>News results page</u>	Enables people to efficiently find a specific news product by quickly filtering results based on keywords and pre-set metadata fields	Template	Government-wide template
<u>Ordered multi-page navigation</u>	Set of links to a group of several pages intended to be read in a preferred order	Design pattern	Navigation
<u>Partnering and collaborative arrangement profile page</u>	Gives an overview of the mandate and information and services of partnering or collaborative arrangement agreements	Template	Institutional
<u>Privacy disclaimer</u>	Use this component to present privacy disclaimers.	Design pattern	Interaction
<u>Program description page</u>	Offers details about a program. Gives access to services related to the program. Use to give background information about a program. Don't use to start a task.	Template	Institutional
<u>Promotional events page</u>	Describes an official government event that occurs in a promotional context. Gives information such as date, time, location and target audience.	Template	Promotion



When to use this pattern



<u>Regulation profile page</u>	Gives a 1 or 2 sentence description of the regulation, allows people to read the regulation, and relates a regulation to topics, institutions, ministers and other legislation.	Template	Destination
<u>Related links</u>	The related links pattern is a list of links to content that is related to the page on which it appears	Design pattern	Navigation
<u>Report a problem</u>	Allows people to provide feedback via a form for any problems that may have happened. This pattern is being decommissioned. We do not recommend adding it to your pages.	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction
<u>Search page</u>	Provides the template for the search engine on Canada.ca	Template	Government-wide template
<u>Service initiation page</u>	Gives people the information they need before starting the task, such as explaining eligibility criteria or steps to follow. Gives people easy access to service standards, turnaround times, related services, guides and help.	Template	Destination, Navigation
<u>Services and information</u>	Use to present sets of links with accompanying descriptions	Design pattern	Navigation

**When to use this pattern**

<u>Share this page</u>	Allows people to share the content of the page to other users	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction
<u>Short index page</u>	Use to present a list of 10 to 50 related links without text descriptions	Template	Navigation
<u>Sign in button</u>	The Sign in button is an optional header element that directs people to government accounts that require authentication.	Design pattern	Interaction, Visual
<u>Site search box</u>	Gives the ability to search all content from the Government of Canada - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern, Interaction
<u>Social media channels block (follow box)</u>	Use to allow people to follow official Government of Canada social media accounts from various social media platforms	Design pattern	Institutional
<u>Social media feeds widget</u>	Use to embed the latest posts from official Government of Canada social media accounts	Design pattern	Institutional, Visual
<u>Subway navigation</u>	Break up long and complex content into sections that each focus on a step or specific answer people need before moving to the next step or section.	Design pattern	Navigation

↑ ↓	When to use this pattern	↑ ↓	↑ ↓
<u>Tabbed interface</u>	Separates related content into different panes that are viewable one at a time	Design pattern	Navigation
<u>Theme and topic menu</u>	Use on all Canada.ca web page as the main theme-based navigation - Mandatory pattern	Design pattern	Site-wide pattern
<u>Theme page</u>	Allows people to discover services and information related to a specific theme across government - Mandatory template	Template	Theme template, Navigation
<u>Topic page</u>	Allows people to discover services and information related to a specific topic across government - Mandatory template	Template	Theme template, Navigation
<u>Transparency and corporate reporting</u>	A corporate reporting page provides proactive disclosure of information offered by that institution.	Template	Institutional
<u>Typography</u>	Typography for Canada.ca - Mandatory style	Style	Site-wide pattern, Visual
<u>What we are doing</u>	Use to link to content that provides background or explanations of GC activities in support of creating or improving public policy	Design pattern	Institutional

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