

# Programmers meet to share code

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There's a group in town that meets about once a month to speak a different language – code.

CodeYQL was created by programmers, for programmers, according to co-founder Chris Rabl. The group allows innovators, whether they're hobbyists, students or professionals, the opportunity to meet regularly to learn and talk about software development.

CodeYQL was created nearly a year ago, and they have over 100 members registered on their meetup.com website. The group typically meets once a month at tecconnect to discuss what they're working on and present their ideas.

During a recent meetup, Rabl encouraged members to brainstorm ways they can help benefit the community by using the City of Lethbridge Open Data Portal ([www.opendata.lethbridge.ca](http://www.opendata.lethbridge.ca)).

Rabl said open data usually meets two criteria.

"First is that it's technologically open – that the data is provided sort of in a machine readable format that can be processed and presented meaningfully," he said. "The second way is that it's legally open, so anyone with access to the data can copy, publish, distribute the information for any kind of lawful purpose."

One way he suggested doing so was by participating in

Lethbridge's first-ever code-a-thon, under the Intelligent YQL initiative, which will take place April 14-16.

The three-day event requires individuals or teams to come up with an idea, pitch a mock up of a software solution like a mobile app or website, that would benefit businesses and citizens of Lethbridge.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams based on the pitches, with first-place winning a minimum of \$500. In addition to a cash prize, additional support may be granted.

"Based on the pitches that will happen from these teams, there's going to be opportunities that the city is going to give to help those teams achieve those long-term visions that they set out, sort of by case-by-case support. It could be additional data, working space, mentorship, access to funding, things like that."

For up to date information on CodeYQL meetups, visit [www.meetup.com/codeYQL](http://www.meetup.com/codeYQL) or to find out more information on the upcoming code-a-thon visit [www.http://tecconnect.ca/](http://www.tecconnect.ca/)

[media/app\\_a\\_thon.php](http://www.tecconnect.ca/media/app_a_thon.php).