

GC Developers Exchange

Presentation to the CTO-Open Source Advisory Board
(May 16, 2018)

Privy Council Office. Rachel Muston.

The catalyst

We (PCO) were receiving many requests for digital engagement tools.

So we put out a call:

We learned that while there are great open source engagement tools, very few are GC ready.



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'canada-ca/welcome'. The repository has 34 watchers and is starred. The navigation bar includes links for Code, Issues (19), Pull requests (0), Projects (0), Wiki, Insights, and Settings. The main content is an issue titled 'Can you help us make a list of open source engagement tools? / Pouvez-vous nous aider à dresser une liste des outils de mobilisation provenant de sources ouvertes? #20'. The issue is marked as 'Open' and was opened by 'laurawesley' on June 11, 2017, with 17 comments. A comment from 'laurawesley' is visible, stating '(le français suit...)' and 'The public engagement team at Privy Council Office, along with our friends and colleagues in the Consultations Community of Practice, need your help!'. The issue is owned by 'laurawesley' and has a 'help wanted' label.

The vision

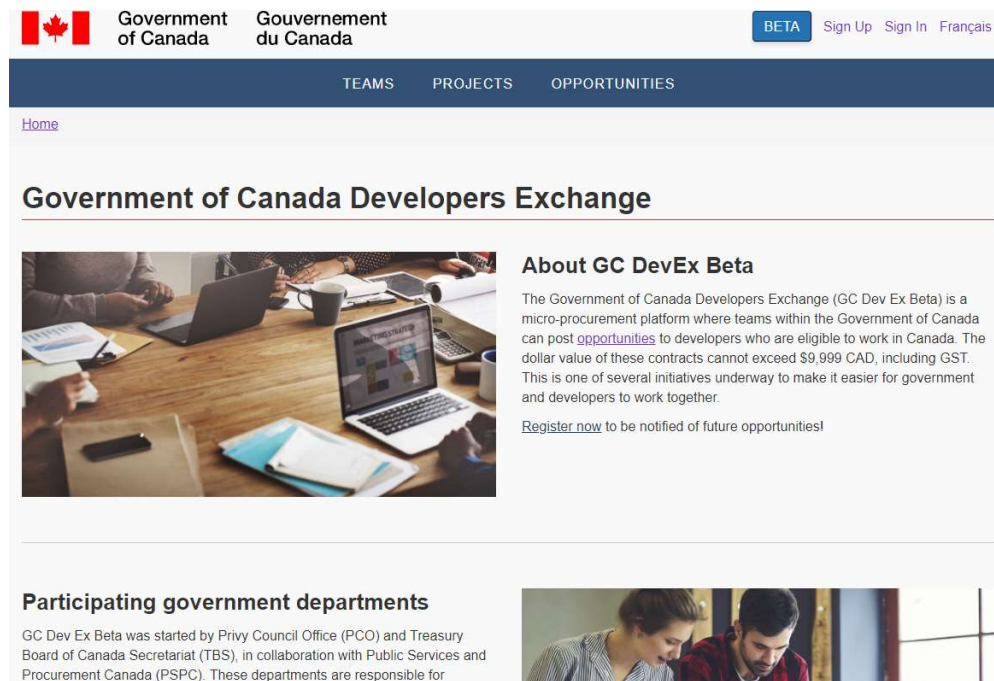
Feria is a freelancer and a member of her local Civic Tech group. She regularly contributes a day here and there to government projects, but rarely gets compensated for her contributions. **Wouldn't it be great if Feria could continue to share her valuable insights and get paid for doing so?**

Val is an executive who would like to have access to up-and-coming young talent. Many of these great minds are still students who do not have the time for full- or part-time work. **Wouldn't it be great if Val could procure the services of these students as and when her projects required?**

Chris is a public servant and a product manager for some open source tools. He would like to run a sprint to make some enhancements to one of his products, but his team is at capacity. **Wouldn't it be great if Chris could procure some open source expertise for this short sprint?**

Launched the GC Developers Exchange

- Website to connect freelancers and small/medium businesses with GC teams (and vice versa)
- All opportunities are less than \$10K
- All opportunities are for open source code
- All procured code is housed on GitHub
- Working prototype up in two months
- Beta version launched in Dec. 2017
- Two opportunities posted, one contract awarded



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Government of Canada Developers Exchange. At the top, there is a header with the Canadian flag, the text "Government of Canada" and "Gouvernement du Canada", and a "BETA" button with links for "Sign Up", "Sign In", and "Français". Below the header is a navigation bar with "TEAMS", "PROJECTS", and "OPPORTUNITIES". The main content area features a "Home" link, the title "Government of Canada Developers Exchange", and a section titled "About GC DevEx Beta". This section includes a photograph of people working at a table with laptops and a text block explaining that the platform is a micro-procurement platform for open source code, with a maximum contract value of \$9,999 CAD. A link to "Register now" is provided. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Participating government departments" with a photograph of two people looking at a laptop screen.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

TEAMS PROJECTS OPPORTUNITIES

Home

Government of Canada Developers Exchange

About GC DevEx Beta

The Government of Canada Developers Exchange (GC Dev Ex Beta) is a micro-procurement platform where teams within the Government of Canada can post [opportunities](#) to developers who are eligible to work in Canada. The dollar value of these contracts cannot exceed \$9,999 CAD, including GST. This is one of several initiatives underway to make it easier for government and developers to work together.

[Register now](#) to be notified of future opportunities!

Participating government departments

GC Dev Ex Beta was started by Privy Council Office (PCO) and Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS), in collaboration with Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). These departments are responsible for

<https://gcdevexchange-carrefourproggc.org/>

How did we go live so fast?

- Went with open source! Forked the code from the BC Dev Exchange
- Worked in partnership with TBS GCTools team and PSPC
- Iterated and learned as we went (instead of trying to have the perfect thing before going live)
 - Started with a working prototype
 - Launched in beta
 - Wrote blog posts to solicit feedback

Challenges: What we've heard

Developers

- Need lots of opportunities
- Give us more context and data to understand the opportunity
 - Peer review on [GCconnex group](#)- problem scoping
- Make the proposal process easier (no more than 2 hrs effort for \$10K)
- Tell us your problem; not your solution.

GC

- Need lots of freelancers who are interested in bidding

Challenges: Project

- Departmental interpretations of procurement policy vary
- Guidelines for Quality Assurance (including security) for procured code
- Legal review of the T&Cs
- Standard contracting clauses relating to IP
- Culture shift required for working in the open. Helps to have an approach of curiosity and be OK with failure.

Future is uncertain

What it could be....

- Easy, quick, flexible procurement vehicle
- Trial balloon for features of larger IT projects
- Backbone for community where everyone is fairly compensated (Pay on Pull!)

And what it would take to get there...

- Ownership & governance
- Collaboration with departmental Finance, IT and Procurement

How you can help!

- Add your opportunities to the GC Developers Exchange!
- If in the GC, help to peer review draft opportunities on the GCconnex group
- Guidance from this board on:
 - OSS Legal
 - Contract wording (IP for open source contracts)
- Promote GC Dev Ex opportunities with your networks