Ted Strauss
Manager of Data Resources, McConnell Brain Imaging Centre
Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University

To: Selection Committee, Multi-stakeholder Forum
The Canadian Open Government Civil Society Network

Re: Self nomination to Multi-stakeholder Forum

I'm writing to submit my candidacy for the multi-stakeholder forum on open government. In this letter, I'll explain my motivations for applying, give an overview of skills I'll bring to the forum, and review my track record in this area. At the end, I provide two references, and links to presentations I've made. Thank you for this opportunity!

a) **Motivations.** My 15 year career has been at the intersection of research, data, and software. During that period, all of these areas have been transformed by open principles. I have been an early adopter of open source, open data, and open science because when properly applied these principles offer massive gains in productivity. There are lots of great reasons to pursue "open" principles, but the simplest reason is this: when done properly, *it works*. As a technical expert who strives to be a clear communicator, I want to help Canadians understand what open government means for them, and support engagement following a sound strategy.

b) **Skills and experience.** I am technology generalist who has worked for universities, tech companies and startups, and with civil society. I participate in professional events on open government and diverse related subjects. I am familiar with the main issues of the field, and am comfortable communicating about it with any audience. I am often in a role of intermediary between computer programmers and managers, because I understand the needs of each side.

c) Track record. Some of my notable contributions towards open principles:
- In my current position, I am helping to design the strategy for the open science initiative at the Montreal Neurological Institute. The MNI has announced itself to be the first research institute in the world to adopt open science as a policy.
- In 2013, I organized and sponsored Open Data Exchange in Montreal, a one-day workshop on the practice of open data in many fields.
- From 2010-2013, I was co-founder of a tech startup focussed on providing a data visualization tool accessible to non-specialists. Among other things, this project helped me to understand how regular people interact with and consume information.
- In 2012, I volunteered with Evidence 4 Democracy in planning the multi-city rally "Stand up for Science" opposing the science policies of the Harper government. The campaign was largely successful.
- I have been an active user of open source, open data and other open practices throughout my 15 years career. I contribute to and evangelize several software projects.

My personal network includes many of the top contributors. I follow closely the work of key institutions in the field: W3C, OKFN, RDA, Sunlight foundation, Open North, EU, Casrai, etc.

Presentations:
- Presentation of a platform for data hosting and collaboration at the McConnell Brain Imaging Centre (this is my current position): https://vimeo.com/216888950
- Open Data Exchange 2013: A video archive of panel discussions and presentations at this event which I programmed and sponsored: https://vimeo.com/trudatvideo

References:
- Sylvain Baillet, Professor, Montreal Neurological Institute: sylvain.baillet@mcgill.ca
- Ariel Harlap, Technology and social innovation consultant: aharlap@gmail.com

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the work of the Open Government Civil Society Network. I'd be glad to answer any questions you might have.

All the best

Ted Strauss

Ted Strauss

Data, Code, Policy, Innovation, Leadership

Montreal, QC
T: 514-475-2374   E: ted.strauss@gmail.com

github.com/tedstrauss

linkedin.com/in/ted-strauss-63b01821/

twitter.com/trudatted

(Information about artistic and media activities are omitted. Available on request.)

Work History

2016 - Present

Manager of Data Resources
Montreal Neurological Institute, McConnell Brain Imaging Center.

Data manager for the largest brain imaging centre in Canada. Member of committees planning the Institute's Open Science Initiative, the first of its kind globally.

2015 - 2016

Web Application Developer
Montreal Neurological Institute. McGill Centre for Integrative Neuroscience.

Worked on application to manage data collection for the Canadian Consortium for Neurodegeneration in Aging.

2010-2016

Contract work: Web Developer, Database Administrator, DevOps
Clients: Photonic Knowledge, AlayaCare, Chic-Marie, Plotly, McComber Architects, Moss Rehab Hospital, AELAQ.

Working with various clients to develop and maintain bespoke web applications, normal web sites, and databases. Contracts ranging from 3 - 24 months.

2011-2013

Co-founder, Product Lead
Trudat, data visualization startup

Trudat was a tech startup company trying to make data visualization more accessible and social for non=specialists.

2008 - 2010

Web Application Developer
LanguageMate

LanguageMate's mission is to bridge the language gap in healthcare.

2004-2007

Research Assistant, Programmer
University of Connecticut, Department of Psychology

Research assistant for a professor studying the psychology of language: computer models, psychology experiments, research, and writing.

| 2003-2004 | **Research Assistant, Programmer** |
| | Columbia University, Department of Psychology. |

2003	**Research Assistant, Programmer**
	Universität Bremen, Department of Linguistics, Germany
	Research internship programming a language generation system.

2000-2001	**Executive Director**
	MEMS Conference 2001
	Director of international conference on microtechnology. Secured IEEE and VC sponsorships.

Education

2003	**B.A. Cognitive Science, with Honours**
	McGill University
	Thesis project: Neural network modeling of french verb conjugation.

Professional activities (selected)

2013
Round table discussions on open data, Treasury Board of Canada
Contributor

2013
Open Data Exchange 2013
Sponsor, organizer

2012-2014
Open Data Day, Montreal
Documentation, volunteer

2016-present
Research Data Alliance
Member

2014
Hack Journalisme
Presenter

2013-present
Evidence 4 Democracy
Volunteer

2014
Open Data for Development Canada, DFAIT
Contributor

2016-present
Casrai - Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information
Member, volunteer

Publications, presentations

Publications related to cognitive science, neural network modeling, & psycholinguistics.

Daniel Mirman, Ted J. Strauss, Adelyn Brecher, Grant M. Walker, Paula Sobel, Gary S. Dell & Myrna F. Schwartz (2010): A large, searchable, webbased database of aphasic performance on picture naming and other tests of cognitive function, **Cognitive Neuropsychology**, 27:6,

Effect of representational distance between meanings on recognition of ambiguous spoken words. (2010) Mirman, D., Strauss, T.J., Dixon, J.A., and Magnuson, J.S. **Cognitive Science**, 34(1), 161173.

Beyond Monosyllables: Word Length and Spoken Word Recognition. (2008) Strauss, T.J., & Magnuson, J.S. **30th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.** Washington, D.C. 2008.

jTRACE : A reimplementation and extension of the TRACE model of speech perception and spoken word recognition. (2007) Strauss, T.J., Harris, H.D., & Magnuson, J.S. **Behavior Research Methods, Instruments & Computers**. Psychonomic Society Publications.

Effect of global context on homophone ambiguity resolution. Mirman, D., Magnuson, J.S., Strauss, T.J., & Dixon, J.A. **30th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society**. Washington, D.C.. 2008.

Teasing apart phonotactic probability and neighborhood density in spoken word recognition. **Mental Lexicon**. Strauss, T.J., & Magnuson, J.S. Montreal, 2006.

Integration of visual context in spoken word recognition: Homophones and the visual world. **Mental Lexicon Conference**. Mirman, D., Strauss, T.J., & Magnuson, J.S. Montreal, 2006.

Speech Perception: Linking Computational Models and Human Data. Strauss, T.J., Mirman, D., & Magnuson, J.S. **28th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society**. Vancouver, Canada. 2006. (6 hour tutorial)

Interaction in Spoken Word Recognition Models : Feedback helps. James S. Magnuson, T.J. Strauss, Harlan D. Harris. **Psychonomic Society 46th Annual Meeting**. Toronto, Canada. 2005.