

Ontario Digital Service,
Treasury Board Secretariat,
590 Bay Street, Suite 1002,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C7

May 21, 2021.

Attention: Christine Hagyard, Senior Manager
Data Access and Analytics

Dear Christine,

The GO Open Data Association (GOOD) Board of Directors is pleased to provide this response as part of your “Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework” consultation. We firstly wish to commend the Ontario Digital Service on choosing this project as the focus for your OGP 2021-22 Action plan. We also wish to acknowledge your contribution to the GOOD21 conference as a panelist on the Ethical AI panel and on leveraging the GOOD hackathon to facilitate community discussion on the draft framework - this was well received and should be documented and the GOODcafé as part of your consultation process.

Principles of Ethical Use of AI

It is noted that the Ontario “Principles for Ethical Use (Alpha)” in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance (alpha) very much align with global defined principles from EU Commission, OECD and others. The principle “4. Accountable and Responsible” is well stated and should possibly consider the peer-review or audit component relating to the recent RAI Certification Beat by the Responsible AI Institute. Their certification process (responsible.ai/certification) includes auditing by independent auditors which would also align with your principle of transparency.

It is recommended that a new principle be included which is “Standards Based and Industry Conformance”. This may be seen as being implicit in the existing principles; however, it is valuable to have a specific principle related to standards and conformity within the AI community.

Although implied, it is important to include the timeliness of the AI knowledge within the Province. It is difficult to be continually up to date on all things AI; however, the degree of collaboration (another principle) with external organizations such as the Vector Institute (vectorinstitute.ai/) and leading individuals such as Teresa Scassa, Canada Research Chair in Information Law and Policy.

The need for external oversight is always important but it does not appear to be specifically described as a principle and could be included in the accountable principle.

It is important to note that much of what is currently happening in public sector AI is often in either an Alpha or Beta version. As such, it is important that an external oversight group be tasked with keeping up to date with AI outcomes and advancements that may require tweaks to the principles and/or addition or replacement of current principles.

Proposed Commitments to Ontario's Trustworth Artificial Intelligence Framework

It is acknowledged that the framework requires starting points and the three documented commitments are broad in scope and will require tasks that are attainable based on the Province's capacity in AI. These are also aligned with the OGP's principles of transparency, accountability and stakeholder engagement.

The following suggestions are not an exhaustive list but hopefully provide some key considerations for actions under the three commitments.

- **No AI in secret**
 - Data and AI literacy. To not be a secret, Ontarians need to have a basic understanding of how data and AI work in a simple and user-friendly way. Leverage COVID use case.
 - Inventory external software used by the Province. It's not just any government developed software using AI that important but ALL software and how to validate their algorithms (i.e. Open Algorithms) without damaging private sector intellectual property.
- **AI use Ontarians can trust**
 - Open Process. Create a simple process flow of AI operations and identify where the public has an opportunity to provide input.
 - Criteria for AI Use. Ontarians need to feel comfortable with the rules the Government is using to consider AI use , proactive impact assessments and adhering to standards.
- **AI that serves all Ontarians**
 - Address the Digital Divide and Accessibility. ALL Ontarians need to be served, protected and equally benefit from AI - equity, inclusion required.
 - Expand current audience reach. Communications related to AI commitment and use needs to be pervasive via all Provincial communications mechanisms (e.g. links to webpages), emails, mailed letters, social media to create awareness to all Ontarians.
 - Data Quality in Decision Making. To effectively utilize AI to effectively serve Ontarians, there must be a data quality audit for each process using AI.

Concluding Remarks

The foregoing is a high level response to "Ontario's Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework" and would benefit from more extensive discussion within the consultation process. GOOD welcomes the opportunity to further engage and support this initiative towards the development of the OGP 2021-22 Action Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Jury Konga, Executive Director and Board of Directors Chair
GO Open Data Association