

September 13, 2024 draft

**DRAFT Communiqué**  
**Digital Trust and Cybersecurity**  
**Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministerial Symposium**

**Digital trust and cybersecurity priorities discussed at annual meeting of federal, provincial and territorial ministers**

ST. JOHN'S, September 17, 2024 – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to discuss three key areas: cyber security, digital trust, and artificial intelligence (AI). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] committed to delivering secure, cutting-edge

public services.

**Cyber Security**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] cyber security information in order to better protect Canadians [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] hold cyber-criminals and threat actors accountable, both inside and outside of Canada.

**Digital Trust**

[REDACTED]

**Artificial Intelligence**

[REDACTED] so that its use in government service delivery is transparent, responsible, and accountable for Canadians.

Ministers agreed that the use of AI should be assessed and managed on a case-by-case basis. This ensures safe and responsible development, procurement, and

deployment in high-risk settings, with minimal administrative burden in lower-risk settings.

1. [REDACTED] human, social and environmental well-being and not [REDACTED] against individuals, communities, or groups.
2. be inclusive, accessible and respect the human rights, diversity, and the autonomy of individuals.
3. uphold privacy rights and data protection in accordance with relevant legislation.
4. be transparent and exercise responsible disclosure so Canadians can clearly understand when they are being significantly affected by AI, can find out when an AI system is engaging with them, and can [REDACTED] challenge, in a timely manner, when affected by the outcome of an AI system.
5. have human oversight so that those responsible for the AI systems are identifiable and accountable for its outcomes.

Ministers agreed to engage in open discussions [REDACTED] federal [REDACTED] legislation that could affect the use and development of AI [REDACTED]

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### Quotes

“As our digital world continues to evolve, so does our commitment to providing digital services to Canadians. Canadians face ongoing threats as they embrace the opportunities offered by the digital economy and connected society. Canadians expect our public services to keep pace with the digital world, and that governments will do everything in their power to protect them. By coming together, the Ministers are demonstrating their commitment to this goal,” said the Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador and Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Co-Chair of the Symposium.

“High quality and timely service delivery require us to evolve with the digital landscape while upholding our responsibilities to privacy and security. By working with provinces and territories, we are reiterating our commitment to deliver cutting-edge and secure digital public services across the country. I look forward to further collaboration to harmonize our work as it is essential for ensuring consistent and efficient service delivery, as well as an alignment to cyber security measures and the responsible uses of AI in our governments.” – The Honourable Anita Anand, President of the Treasury Board

“Thank you to Newfoundland and Labrador for hosting this important symposium and giving us the opportunity to connect and share ideas with digital government officials

from across the country. Since our government established the portfolio of Citizens' Services last year, we have prioritized modernizing service delivery to meet Canadians' needs. Managing multiple logins for federal and provincial services is inefficient, confusing, and time-consuming for Canadians. Right now, more than 60 different logins are needed across federal departments to access services. That's why we're leveraging digital credentials to create a single login for all government services, as funded in Budget 2024. We're collaborating across all federal departments and working together with provinces and territories to ensure Canadians receive the seamless, accessible, and efficient service they deserve.” - The Honourable Terry Beech, Minister of Citizens' Services

“Cooperation, learning from one another, and sharing best practices are key to ensuring that we responsibly adopt - and maximize the benefits of - cutting-edge innovations to best serve Canadians. As we navigate our ever-evolving digital world together, Ontario is steadfast in its commitment to working alongside all jurisdictions to build a stronger, safer, and more resilient digital future for all.” - Honourable Todd McCarthy, Ontario's Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

### **Media contacts**

Gina MacArthur  
 Digital Government and Service NL  
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
 709-729-4748; 709-327-9574  
[GinaMacArthur@gov.nl.ca](mailto:GinaMacArthur@gov.nl.ca)

Media Relations  
 Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat  
 Telephone: 613-369-9400  
 Toll-free: 1-855-TBS-9-SCT (1-855-827-9728)  
 Email: [media@tbs-sct.gc.ca](mailto:media@tbs-sct.gc.ca)

Media Relations Office  
 Employment and Social Development Canada  
 819-994-5559  
[media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:media@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

Teodor Gaspar  
 Office of the Minister of Citizens' Services, Terry Beech  
[teodor.gaspar@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:teodor.gaspar@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement – Government of Ontario  
 Media Relations  
 Communications Branch  
[MPBSDP.MediaRelations@ontario.ca](mailto:MPBSDP.MediaRelations@ontario.ca)

Matthew D'Amico  
Minister's Office  
Government of Ontario  
[matthew.d'amico@ontario.ca](mailto:matthew.d'amico@ontario.ca)