

Open_Policy@DFAIT February 9, 2012

Policy Staff, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Unconference Workshops (i.e. participant-led workshops)

During the morning, participants will be encouraged to think about how an open policy approach might apply in their own work - either to work more efficiently; to better address current challenges; or to better leverage the skills of new and different partners. They will then self-organize into groups where DFAIT staff, OGDs, and external open innovation experts can explore how to better collaborate to enhance the department's ability to address issues. Each group will be led by one DFAIT and one outside participant. They will have time to develop ideas for addressing the group's issue using an open policy development approach.

Outcomes from the workshops will be presented to the conference later in the afternoon. Ideas would be eligible for seed money to help implement them as a pilot project. Pilots will be designed to demonstrate possibilities of new technologies, new partnerships and new approaches to address issues facing DFAIT policy development through strategic collaboration.

Seed money received could be used for research, hiring an intern to get the pilot off the ground, etc. Pilot projects will be monitored and used as concrete examples of open policy development.



Post your idea here!

Examples of some of the issues others hope to work on at the event:



Building Community Resilience in Sun Destinations: A Crisis Mapping Collaborative Pilot

Issues to be addressed by Pilot: Recent estimates indicate that 2.8 million Canadians live abroad. In 2010, Canadians travelled outside our borders 56 million times, an increase of 24% since 2006. DFAIT handled 215,000 consular cases in 2010 of which 10,400 resulted from emergency settings such as political instability or natural disasters. As the velocity of travel and migration increases, DFAIT's consular services must become increasingly nimble to support its citizens abroad.

Today, we see a Canadian population abroad that looks to the federal government to assist them in international crises. Our ability to do so is hampered by incomplete knowledge of Canadians abroad and how best to communicate with them, as well as a partial picture of the resilience of Canadians abroad. In crises, this is further complicated by the fact that communication with Canadians abroad is strained by cuts in telephone and internet service.



A Mission-led Country Strategy Collaboration

Issue to Be Addressed by Pilot: While the New Business Model is moving toward a system that would rely on Heads of Mission abroad to lead on policy development and implementation in their areas of responsibility, traditional policy development patterns in DFAIT indicate an ongoing and heavy role for headquarters. How can

we better empower HOMs to lead relevant policy development? How can we employ digital tools to facilitate more effective collaboration among key knowledge holders?



Teacher Diplomat Project Pilot: Engaging Canada's Diaspora and Promoting Education

Issue to Be Addressed by Pilot: The development and implementation of a Canadian International Education Strategy is an important government priority to maintain and increase the \$6.5 billion that international students contribute to the Canadian economy. There are thousands of Canadian teachers abroad who could be partners in promoting awareness of Canada and encouraging international students to study in Canada. While Canadian businesspeople abroad have access to Canadian

networks through Canadian missions and Canadian Chambers of Commerce abroad, Canadian teachers, though numerous, do not enjoy the same platform to exchange experiences. How can digital tools and open collaboration models be employed to create and strengthen teacher networks and provide them with online tools to incorporate into their curriculum to promote awareness of Canada?



Open data – what could it do for DFAIT?

Issue to be addressed by Pilot: Open Data is about offering Government data in a more useful and machine readable formats to enable citizens, the private sector and non-government organizations to leverage it in innovative and value-added ways. The Government of Canada's Open Data Portal is a one-stop shop for federal Government data, providing data that can be downloaded free of charge. The portal facilitates access to datasets available on websites to citizens, researchers, voluntary organizations and the private sector. Application developers can reuse and mash-up

the data from the portal for commercial purposes, research, or community services to benefit all Canadians in a variety of ways. The Government's Open Data portal was launched in March 2011. Eleven departments have contributed over 260,000 data sets. DFAIT has not yet provided any data. The challenge is that much of the information and data we hold is not in machine readable format. How do we translate our information holdings into a format that enables the department to take leverage the Government's Open Data Portal and how do we do so in a way that advances departmental foreign, trade and consular priorities?



Reports from missions – can the department take a web 2.0 approach and move away from e-mail distribution lists?

Issue to be addressed by Pilot: The DFAIT network of posts abroad is a major asset and the information, intelligence, analysis contained in reports from missions is a much sought after resource within headquarters, other missions and other departments. Parts of the network excel at on the ground, just-in-time reporting. And while such reports are plentiful, they can lack regional or broader perspectives. Distribution lists miss those who have an interest or could help develop more

strategic views. E-mail distribution is not conducive to generating a more substantive discussion on a report's content. Reporters are not always supported by instructions or models from HQ, or aware of what structure or strategy their work might inform. They are also not aware of who reads their work. We need an approach that combines timeliness with high-level analysis, doesn't depend upon a distribution list to push the knowledge out, can track readership and has space to enable digital conversations around a report's content.