



**Innovate  
Cities.**

## **Smart Cities Council and Global Affairs Canada: Webinar Series**

**April 27, 2023**

**CityShield | Innovate Cities' Data Trust**

SECTION

# What is CityShield?



## CityShield...



...is Innovate Cities' technologically-advanced and well-governed data sharing platform.

...is a not-for-profit platform that will allow Ontario's innovation ecosystem to evolve to the next stage.

...has privacy, transparency, diversity, equity and inclusion embedded in its core.

...is designed to mobilize data for good and can help overcome the digital divide, accelerate climate adaptation, and assist disadvantaged communities and persons with disabilities.

...will serve citizens, innovators and municipalities, while safeguarding the privacy of each.



## CityShield...



...is an end-to-end solution, built and supported by Canadian innovation, that gives data providers full control over who can see and access their data.

...includes data-sharing technology built by Sightline Innovation, with leading privacy technology from Replica Analytics and Private AI, and hosted with ThinkOn, a Canadian cloud and data storage provider.

...is system-agnostic thanks to its technology operating from an API or node, allowing it to work with any system.



## CityShield is an Important and Necessary Evolution of the Data Trust Model.



Employs leading governance & privacy practices to mobilize “Data for Good”.

Does not retain or provide access to personally-identifiable information (PII).

Gives data providers control over who can use their data.

Abides by Privacy-By-Design and GDPR standards.

Is not defined by a single purpose or specific neighbourhood, municipal area or other geographic location.

Has the ability to earn the trust of those who live, work and play in cities.

SECTION

# CityShield Data Governance



# Trust is earned.



We know that trust is earned, and rests on our commitment to good governance and stewardship. Both are critical components of any data ecosystem, and we have created a strong governance structure for CityShield, which includes:

- an independent Chief Privacy Officer, who has the power to investigate complaints
- an Advisory Board designed to keep Innovate Cities apprised of privacy and technology developments, as well as community concerns
- an annual privacy audit, disclosed to Innovate Cities' CPO, Board of Directors, Advisory Board and the general public
- working with the Digital Data Governance Council to become the first organization certified under their new Data Stewardship Governance Standard; after the certification process is complete we will further refine the roles and responsibilities of our CTO and PMO as part of our overall data governance structure



# Thought Leaders in Data Governance.



Innovate Cities develops and maintains standards and policies supporting CityShield's data governance by actively sharing our work and learning from other stakeholders.

We are thought leaders within Ontario's data-sharing ecosystem, hosting webinars, presenting at conferences, and participating in industry events where we showcase our leading practices in privacy and governance.

We have supported Canadian innovation, created a new innovation infrastructure, and become a trusted expert and thought leader in the data governance and data privacy space.



SECTION

# CityShield Data Stewardship



# Implementing our Data Stewardship.

Innovate Cities made the decision to build a data trust and actively engage with the innovation ecosystem and privacy and governance experts.

This allowed us to learn from other stakeholders and from other leading-edge approaches, and to formulate our 4 Core Privacy Principles.



## 4 Core Privacy Principles.



1. CityShield abides by Privacy-by-Design and GDPR standards. (This is now reflected in the newly-adopted ISO PbD Standard 31700, which establishes requirements to protect privacy throughout the lifecycle of a consumer product.)
2. CityShield does not allow Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to enter the system.
3. CityShield allows organizations to “outsource” the burdens of data governance to a trusted third party - Innovate Cities.
4. CityShield’s operating principle will always be “Trust but verify.”



# CityShield's Privacy Protection.



- Innovate Cities controls who is permitted access to the CityShield platform.
- Organizations control who is permitted to see their data, and retain the ability to pursue legal action against any entity that misuses their data.
- Innovate Cities has integrated leading Canadian privacy technology into its data-sharing platform:
  - we apply Private AI technology to data sets to confirm that they do not include any personally-identifiable information
  - for data sets that do include personally-identifiable information, we synthesize the data using Replica Analytics' technology, making the data impossible to identify
- Personally-identifiable information cannot be transmitted onto the CityShield platform.

SECTION

# Lessons Learned



# Lessons Learned.



- Data-sharing platforms are widely written about and discussed, but not much is actually done – while data-sharing is important, most stakeholders don't know how to do it.
- It is difficult to market a data-sharing platform because people don't know what a data-sharing platform is in practice – they don't know how to do it, and in many instances don't have the capacity to do it.
- We learned that data providers have to be able to control who gets to see their data and to exercise their rights with respect to data users.
- Data having an intrinsic value may seem self-evident, but it isn't.
- It takes a lot of work to get people to the point where they know what data sharing is, and where they trust us.



Innovate Cities is achieving its mission to mobilize data for good. We are building the infrastructure to drive prosperity in Ontario today and in the future, and to tackle social challenges, including digital inequity among the disadvantaged.

Innovate Cities is committed to a process of continuous improvement, and will always seek to improve our privacy controls and protections.



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**Thank you.**

**Got questions?**

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