

Minister  
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre  
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

SEP 19 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
The United States of America  
WASHINGTON D.C.

Dear Madam Secretary: 

Thank you for your letter of August 17, 2011, inviting Canada to join the Open Government Partnership.

I am writing to communicate our intent to join. I would like to thank you for the leadership you have shown on this important initiative to support governments and civil society around the world in their efforts to promote transparency and combat corruption.

Canada has much to share on open government. We were one of the first countries to enact access to information legislation almost three decades ago, and we significantly expanded coverage through the 2006 *Federal Accountability Act*. Canada has also led the way in pro-actively disclosing information about contracts, grants and contributions, as well as posting hospitality and travel expenses on the Web. The most recent Speech from the Throne reaffirmed our government's commitment to ensuring that citizens, the private sector and other partners have improved access to the workings of government through open data, open information and open dialogue.

Indeed, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada is applying an open government and open dialogue approach to international policy through its Open Policy Development Model. This approach connects officials with trusted partners outside of government, notably in the business and academic communities, to collaborate on policy questions. Technology enables these connections. Our policy staff has been in contact with your senior adviser on Innovation, Mr. Alec Ross, to discuss open policy development issues.

I look forward to Canada's formal announcement that it will join the Partnership on September 20, 2011, and to working with other members of the Open Government Partnership as we all prepare for the March 2012 meeting in Brazil.

Sincerely,

John Baird, P.C., M.P.

Canada