

# CITY POLICY



**POLICY NUMBER: C581**

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**REFERENCE:**

The Way Ahead: City Strategic Plan, 2009-2018  
Strategic Roadmap: The Way Ahead, 2012  
Open City Initiative, 2014

**ADOPTED BY:**

City Council

**SUPERSEDES:**

**New**

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**PREPARED BY:** Corporate Services Department

**DATE:** March 10, 2015

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**TITLE:** **Open City Policy**

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**Policy Statement:**

As an Open City, the City of Edmonton will create opportunity for diverse input and participation, inviting Edmontonians to play a larger role in shaping the community and enabling social and economic growth.

**Definitions:**

In this policy, the following words have the following meanings:

- (a) "Open City" means the civic perspective on the broader Open Government philosophy.
- (b) "Open Government" means a philosophy of government which emphasizes the value of greater transparency and accountability, increased citizen engagement, and innovation and economic opportunities driven by these values and by the release of data and information.

**The purpose of this policy is to:**

Articulate the City's commitment to bring to action the Open City principles of transparency, participation, collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation.

1. The City will:

- **Manage information and data assets as a strategic resource:** The City will manage its information and data as a key decision-making tool, in a manner that adheres to sound data management practices, resulting in information and data being easily accessed and shared.
- **Ensure information and data are open by default and private where appropriate:** The City will share information and data in a variety of formats and media and in so doing, will adhere to

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relevant policy, legislation and leading practices related to the privacy and security of personal information.

- **Expand opportunities to foster a collaborative environment and engage Edmontonians to ensure municipal activities reflect community values, priorities and standards:** The City will create opportunities for Edmontonians to interact with the City to impact the design, development, and delivery of public programs, services, and policies.
- **Embrace technology and new business models to deliver services to Edmontonians:** The City will leverage technology and innovative approaches to offer programs and services to Edmontonians across multiple channels (e.g. in-person, online and over the phone).
- **Remove barriers to access and open up new possibilities for collaboration between Edmontonians and the City:** This includes making high speed internet more accessible, improving in-person and online consultation with Edmontonians for more meaningful two-way and multi-party discussion with the City, residents and stakeholders on policies and City activities.
- **Work with other public and private sector organizations for the advancement of Open City principles:** The City recognizes its position as part of the broader Open Government movement, and commits to participating in building out a vibrant and cohesive data and information ecosystem across regional, provincial and Canadian public sector jurisdictions and entities.

2. The City Manager will have the responsibility to design and implement relevant Open City strategies, roadmaps, and directives as required. Full implementation of the policy will be phased in over time.