

# EX30.12.3

January 15, 2018



To: Executive Committee  
City of Toronto  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2

Faculty of Management

Re: The value for the use of Open Data in Universities

Dear Committee,

We are professors at Dalhousie's Faculty of Management developing and teaching data analytics classes for graduate and undergraduate students. Our students have been using open data both in classes as well as in regional and international competitions. Open data has enabled us to explore factual issues that matter to students and employers in our communities. Most of our students come from the GTA and this is where the bulk of our employers reside as well. We recently completed a Government of Canada funded major project on the best practices for teaching Data Literacy <http://dataliteracy.ca/> which highlights the importance of students being engaged with data that is relevant to their own communities.

Upon reviewing the City of Toronto's Open Data Master Plan, we are pleased to note the great commitments to Open-by-Default as well as to quality and the maintenance of data, with contact information to the creators/owners of the data sets. In our experience, open data can become the foundation great learning opportunities and in the ideal conditions can also provide the chance to give feedback to the data owners/creators for new economic and social innovations. We would like to express our support for the Open Data Master Plan and hope to be able find many future synergistic opportunities for students and the City of Toronto to benefit from innovative uses of data from our communities.

Best regards,

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