

January 19, 2018



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

Re: The value of open data for business

Dear Committee,

I write on behalf of ThinkData Works, a Toronto-based tech startup that uses the city of Toronto's open data as a core element of our business. Our clients range in size from small businesses to some of the largest companies in Canada, and although their specific data needs vary according to the problems we are helping them solve, they have a common desire to use open data to generate insight and cement the use of public data into their core business practices. Since ThinkData Works established in 2014 we have grown from four to thirty employees, and we are enabling dozens of businesses across Canada to leverage high-value, previously untapped information. None of this could have happened without open data.

It has been my privilege to participate in meetings where the City of Toronto has outlined, debated, and developed the Open Data Master Plan, and as someone who has first hand knowledge of thousands of open data portals across the world, I can comfortably state that the Master Plan has the potential to establish Toronto as one of the leading open data providers in North America. Iterative, community-conscious practices, as outlined in the Plan, ensure that open data in Toronto will provide our city with a renewable resource that will be eagerly used by citizens, academics, and business leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lewis Wynne-Jones'.

Lewis Wynne-Jones
Head of Data Acquisition
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