



NOTICE OF MOTION

Advancing Digital Sovereignty for the City of Toronto

Moved by: Councillor

Moise

Seconded by: Councillor

Cheng

SUMMARY:

On June 4, 2026, Prime Minister Mark Carney and Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation Evan Solomon launched "[AI for All](#)," Canada's new national artificial intelligence strategy. The strategy commits over \$2.3 billion in federal spending over five years, anchored in three guiding principles – Trust, Opportunity, and Sovereignty. Through this strategy, the federal government aims to strengthen Canada's AI sovereignty by supporting globally competitive Canadian AI companies to ensure that AI systems are developed and governed on Canadian terms.

In November 2025, the Government of Canada published the [Digital Sovereignty Framework](#), an approach for improving digital readiness at the Government of Canada. This framework defines digital sovereignty as the Government of Canada's ability to exercise autonomy over its digital infrastructure, data, and intellectual property, and the capacity to operate effectively and make independent decisions about its digital assets, regardless of where technologies are developed, hosted, or supported.

For the City of Toronto, these developments present an opportunity to consider a strong, homegrown approach to sovereignty over digital infrastructure, including data and artificial intelligence – one that balances reliance on foreign-owned technology, prioritizes Canadian solutions, and aligns with federal efforts.

Recently, international municipalities such as Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark's two largest cities, and Amsterdam, the Dutch capital, have shared plans and taken preliminary steps towards greater digital sovereignty, often through a phased or pilot approach, including replacing Microsoft products with open-source software or other non-US alternatives. These initial measures are aimed at reducing reliance on US-owned technology providers in the long-term, citing reasons such as rising costs, risks to reliance on a single vendor, geopolitical risks, and concerns about potential for service disruption if international relations deteriorate.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council request that the Government of Canada engage with the City of Toronto; including Technology Services, Chief Procurement Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, and City Clerk; to identify opportunities to advance municipal digital sovereignty in alignment with Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, including dedicated funding to support municipalities in transitioning to Canadian-based technology and software solutions.
2. City Council request the City Manager to forward this Item to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their consideration and advocacy.

July 29, 2026