GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2021

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards please complete and email this form to secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **no later than 14 June 2021.**

Note: GPA member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish, but a separate form should be used for each different entry, submitted by the deadline above.

Languages: The GPA documentation Rule 6.2[1] applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	**Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC)**

2. ELIGIBILITY

By submitting this entry, I confirm that (*please tick all boxes to confirm*):

☒ The Authority is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly

☒ The initiative described in this entry was undertaken since January 2020.

☒ I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the GPA Secretariat.

3. CATEGORIES

Please indicate which category you wish to enter.

*Please tick **one**; please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:*

☒ Education and Public Awareness

☐ Accountability

☐ Dispute Resolution and Enforcement

☐ Innovation

☐ People's Choice

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

a. Please provide a brief summary of the initiative *(no more than 75 words)*

The **OPC's Contributions Program** funds independent privacy research and public education initiatives. Funded projects generate innovative ideas, approaches, and

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[1] GPA Rules and Procedures, Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':

Without prejudice to section 4.2, Assembly documents, including accreditation and observer applications may be submitted in English or in another language. In the latter case, the documents shall be accompanied by an English version. Members with the ability and the resources to do so are encouraged to translate proposed resolutions and other Assembly documents such as the Assembly Rules and Procedures.

knowledge about privacy, which organizations can use to better safeguard personal information and Canadians can use to better protect their privacy.

In 2020, the Program funded – among other projects – several "design jams" centred on the online consent challenge. In 2021, it focussed its funding on projects dealing with artificial intelligence. And in 2021-22, the Program will be funding projects on protecting privacy in an increasingly digitalized world.

b. Please provide a full description of the initiative *(no more than 350 words)*

The Program has existed since 2004 and its goals are to support arm's length, independent research and public education on privacy, further privacy policy development and promote the protection of personal information. Its annual budget is half a millions dollars and every year it typically awards up to $50,000 per project and $100,000 per recipient organization.

The Program issues a call for proposals in the fall, and all proposals are evaluated on the basis of merit. Only non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. This includes consumer, voluntary and advocacy organizations, academic institutions and think tanks, industry and trade associations.

The Program enjoys very high visibility among academia and civil society groups, in Canada and abroad. Funded projects are regularly quoted or referenced in the media and have spurred new research or public education initiatives. Two foreign data protection authorities – the UK's and New Zealand's privacy offices – have sought our advice in helping them create their own independent research funding programs.

The projects funded since 2020 have been noteworthy for both their innovativeness and contribution to the advancement of the cause of privacy.

In 2020, the Contributions Program funded – among other initiatives – "design jams" whose purpose was to find solutions to the online consent challenge. Design jams are collaborative brainstorming events that bring together experts from various backgrounds with the aim of generating solutions to a problem in a creative environment. [Memorial University](), the [British Columbia Freedom of Information and Privacy Association](), and a youth group called [Citizen Hacks](), all received funding. Experts from across Canada gathered at these events, leading to the creation of innovative solutions.

In 2021, the Contributions Program funded eight projects on artificial intelligence and its repercussions on privacy rights. Among these were a research project on the implications of AI on the privacy rights of children, a project on the responsible development of machine learning, and a project on the challenges posed by AI to consumer privacy.

Finally, in 2021-22 the Program will be funding projects on the theme of protecting privacy in an increasingly digitalized world. At the time of writing these lines, the funding

recipients had not yet been announced. Go to the link below or "Program Announcements" on the OPC webpage to see the list of new recipients when it is posted.

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c. **Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award** *(no more than 200 words)*

In addition to funding projects on the themes noted above, the Program has funded projects dealing with a vast array of other, cutting-edge privacy issues since 2020, and indeed since the Program's inception nearly 20 years ago. The Program's positive impact on privacy is undeniable. Which is why we believe the Contributions Program is one of the jewels in the OPC's crown.

Leading academics have for years benefited from funding made available through the Program to finance their innovative research. Civil society groups have benefited from funding provided by the Program to help vulnerable populations such and youth, women in abusive relationships, the elderly, Aboriginal peoples and the physically challenged protect their personal data and better become aware of their privacy rights. Seed funding made available by the Program has helped establish or promote internationally recognized research initiatives that deal with privacy, such as the Surveillance Studies Centre at Queen's University and the University of Ottawa's CIPPIC. The Program has helped launch or buttress the careers of leading academics working in the field of privacy such as David Lyon, Céline Castets-Renard, Colin Bennett, Jocelyn MaClure and Marty Abrams, to name a few.

For years, the OPC Contributions Program has played a significant role in advancing the cause of privacy, in Canada and even abroad. Because of this, we believe this initiative deserves to be recognised by an award.

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d. **Please include a photograph or image, if you wish** *(This will be published with your entry on the GPA website. The image can be pasted into the box below, be sent as an attachment or a link may be provided)*

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e. **Please provide the most relevant link on the authority's website to the initiative, if applicable** *(The website content does not need to be in English)*

English: https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/opc-actions-and-decisions/research/funding-for-privacy-research-and-knowledge-translation/

French: https://www.priv.gc.ca/fr/mesures-et-decisions-prises-par-le-commissariat/recherche/financement-pour-les-projets-de-recherche-et-d-application-des-connaissances/

f. Please provide any other relevant links that help explain the initiative or its impact or success *(e.g. links to news reports or articles):*

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