

Keynote

Canada's AI & Data Leadership for a Trusted Digital Future

How Canada is shaping AI and data strategy to drive innovation, competitiveness, and public trust

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CANADA NOW

Canada is moving from principles to operating discipline

The shift is from isolated pilots to a public architecture for responsible adoption.

Mar 2025



First federal AI Strategy

Four priorities: coordination, secure use, talent, and trust through openness.

Jun 2025



Directive and AIA strengthened

Senior accountability, stronger testing and monitoring, richer impact questions.

Nov 2025



Public AI Register launched

42 institutions and 400+ systems create a new baseline of transparency.

2025-26



G7 network and GovAI challenge

Canada links domestic modernization with international public-sector collaboration.

Leadership now means combining innovation, openness, and control at system level.

LEADERSHIP LENS

Public-sector AI leadership is a different leadership problem

In government, a technically strong model can still be a governance failure.

Public-service value

- Legality and due process
- Equity and accessibility
- Trust, transparency, and recourse
- Resilience of services and institutions
- Better outcomes for citizens

Economic and business value

- Productivity and time saved
- Competitiveness and growth
- Customer experience and speed
- Risk reduction and compliance quality
- Scalable insight and decision velocity

Shared requirement: trustworthy data + accountable governance + measurable results

TRUST ARCHITECTURE

A trusted digital future rests on five layers

AI is never only a model problem; it is a decision-system problem.

Public value and mandate	What problem are we solving, for whom, and under what authority?
Data foundations	Quality, metadata, inventories, lineage, interoperability, stewardship
AI delivery and experimentation	Search, copilots, drafting, analytics, bounded pilots, reusable patterns
Guardrails and assurance	Privacy, security, explainability, human review, monitoring, audit, recourse
Talent and accountability	Leaders, EC, IM, and IT capacity, communities of practice, working groups, owners

If one layer is weak, trust erodes even when the model performs well.

VALUE CREATION

Where measurable benefits appear first

The strongest early use cases improve productivity, control, and decision quality at the same time.

Productivity

- Draft correspondence and briefing support
- Research, retrieval, and synthesis
- Bilingual and content-production assistance

Control and governance

- Metadata extraction and tagging
- Classification and naming-convention checks
- OCR, records discovery, and data inventory

Decision quality

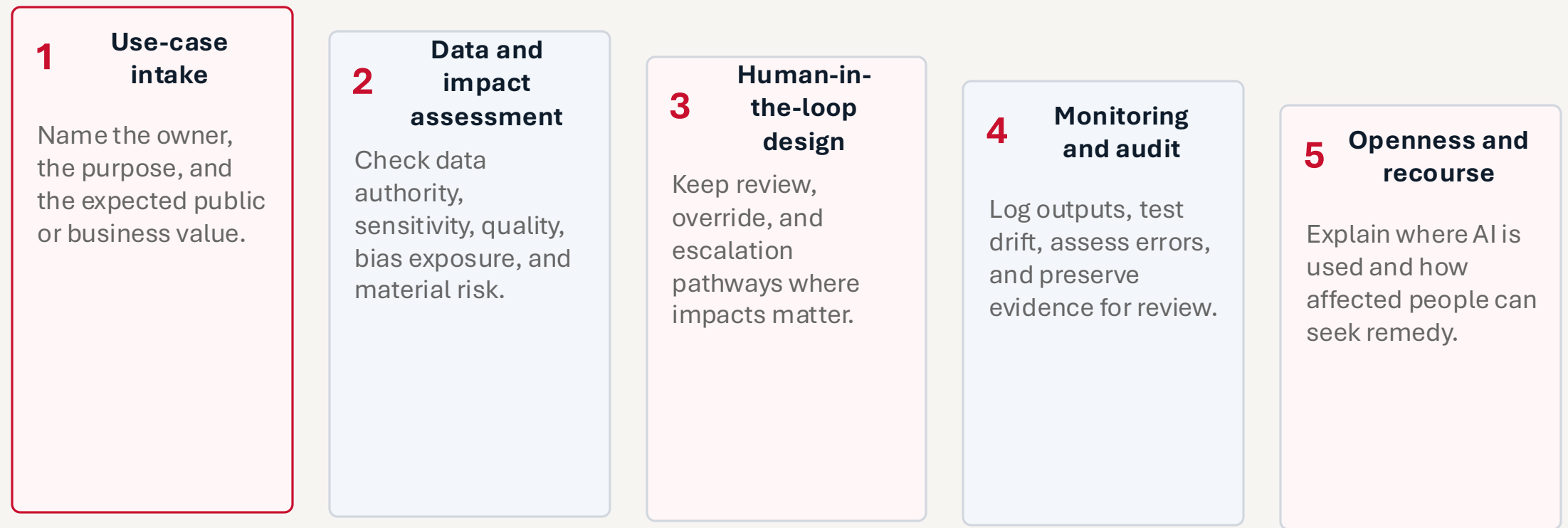
- Analyst copilots and evidence support
- Risk triage and pattern detection
- Faster insight with human judgment retained

**Outcomes leaders can measure:
turnaround time | discoverability | manual effort avoided | compliance uplift | user adoption**

GOVERNANCE IN PRACTICE

Ethical, transparent, and secure is an operating model

Trust is built through repeatable controls, not through good intentions.

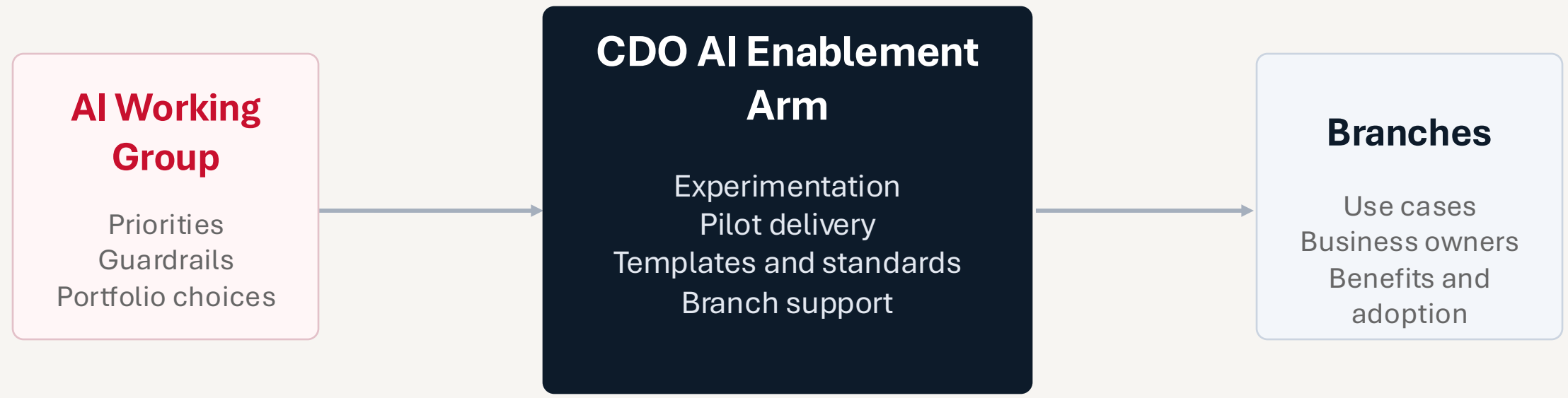


If you cannot name the owner, explain the output, or audit the data, you are not ready to scale.

OPERATING MODEL

A CDO-led AI capability should be small, trusted, and execution-oriented

The role is to turn curiosity into governed experimentation and supported delivery.



Why Economic and Social Sciences (EC)-heavy capacity matters

- problem framing and experiment design
- evaluation, evidence, and policy translation
- metadata, taxonomy, and inventory logic

Targeted IT roles remain essential for secure platforms, integration, and model operations.

Canada's opportunity is not just to adopt AI faster. It is to govern AI better.

When innovation, trust, and public value rise together, digital leadership becomes durable.

- Lead with data foundations.
- Scale what is explainable and auditable.
- Measure public value, not only efficiency.

