



OPEN DATA AREAS
ALBERTA

INITIAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

What We Heard

Government & Academia — July 21, 2026
Industry & Tech Innovators — July 23, 2026

35 participants · 424 anonymous poll responses · 36 live polls

Alberta Data Partnerships · Supported by Alberta Innovates

Open Data Areas Alberta Modernization · Stakeholder Sessions, July 2026

The input that's shaping the roadmap

Thank you to all participants for taking part. These two sessions opened a broader engagement to keep ODAA useful to Alberta, and beyond, for the next decade. This recap reflects what we heard back in the sessions: who attended, where priorities landed, the themes beneath the numbers, and what happens next.

How to read this deck

- July 21 · Government & Academia (Gov/Acad)
- July 23 · Industry & Tech Innovators (Ind/Tech)

All polling was anonymous and is reported in aggregate. Percentages are the share of voters selecting an option; ranking questions report weighted-average scores (higher = more valued).

35

participants across the two sessions

424

poll responses

36

live Slido polls (18 per session)

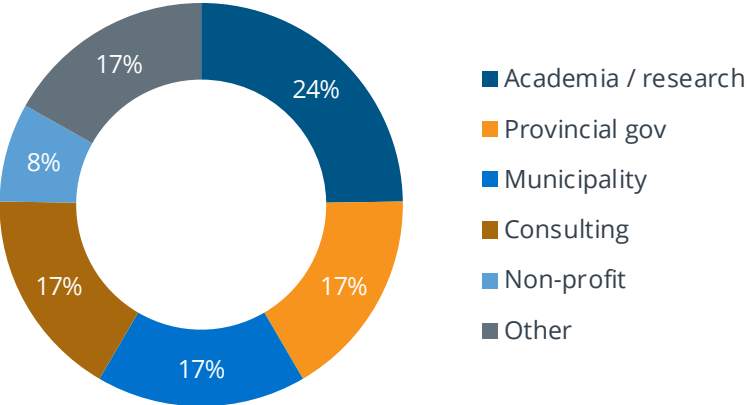
~13

poll responses per active participant

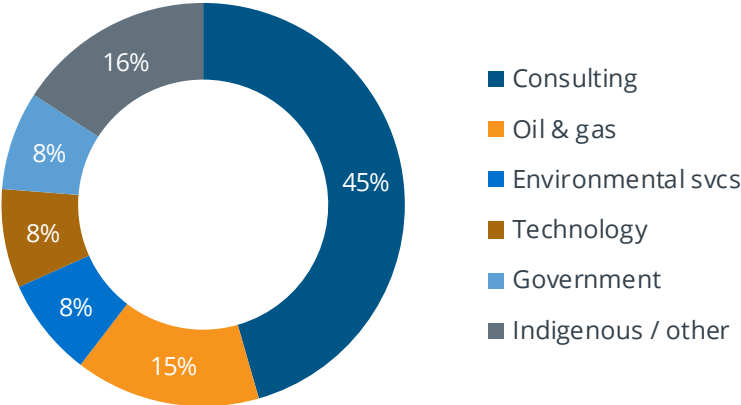
Engagement held up: average attendance ran 59–68 minutes of a ~90-minute session, and 16–17 of the attendees in each room voted in the polls.

Attendee profile

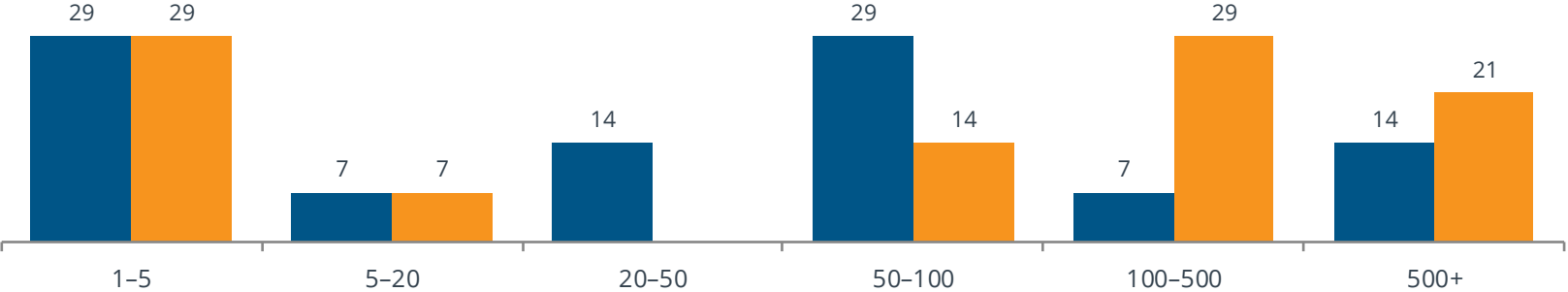
Government / Academia (Gov/Acad) - attendee mix



Industry / Tech (Ind/Tech) Innovators - attendee mix



Organization size: % of each room



Roles with data

38% of the Gov/Acad room were data providers.

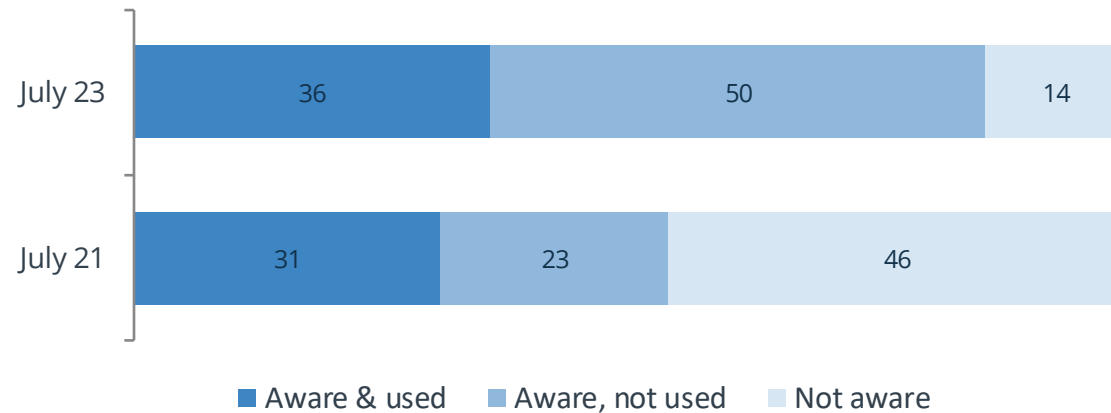
64% of the Ind/Tech room were consultants or service providers.

Insight: both rooms pair very small shops (29% at 1-5 people) with large organizations.

Why it Matters: ODAA has to work for both ends and everyone in between.

Contrasting the two rooms

Had you heard of ODAA and used it? (% of room)



46%

of Gov/Acad had never heard of ODAA

50%

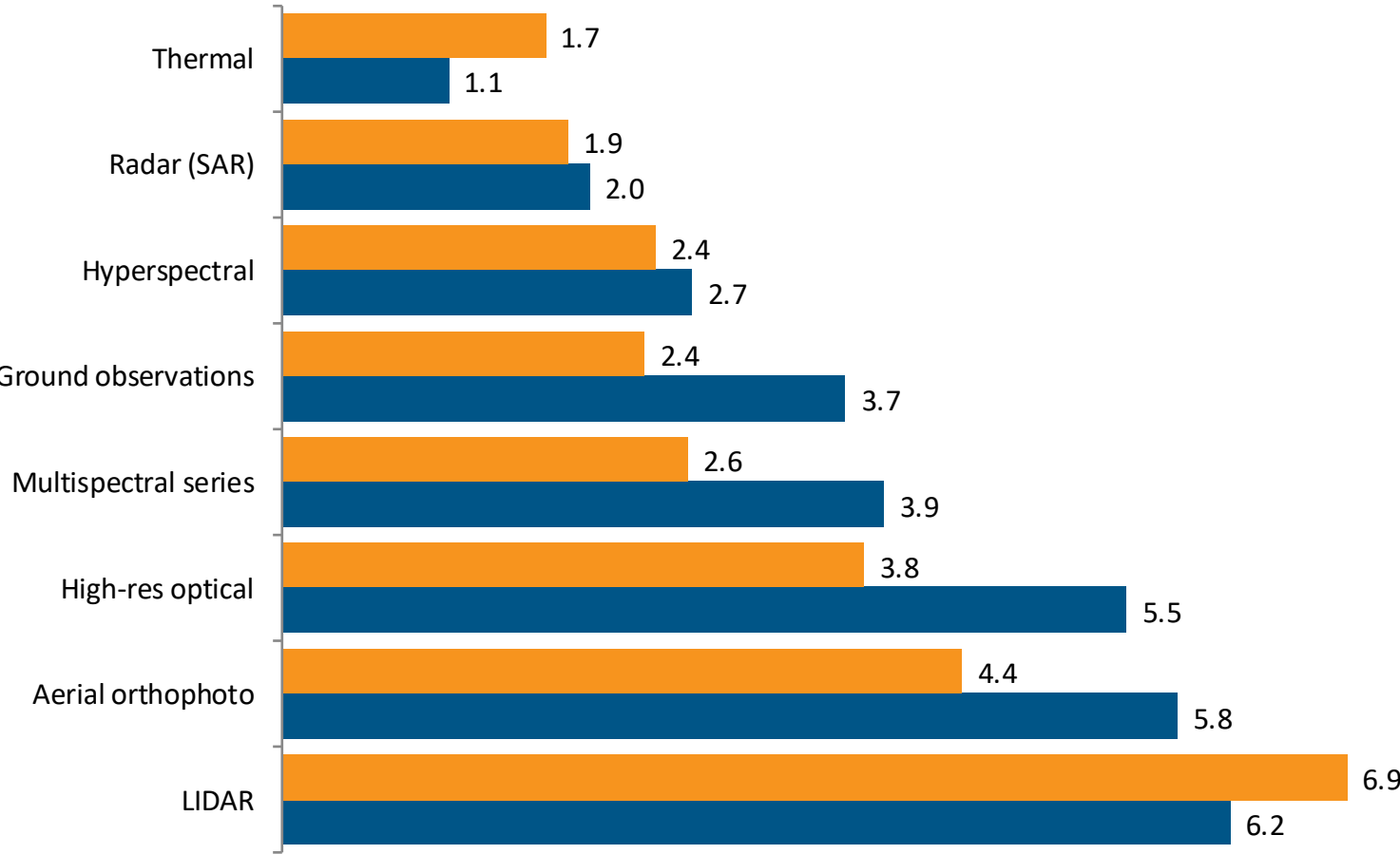
of Ind/Tech knew of it but never used it

Why it matters:

Supports setting priorities for the roadmap

1. Outreach that puts ODAA in front of the public sector and academia for the first time.
2. Activation (easier access, current data, clear licensing) that converts existing awareness into use.

LIDAR leads decisively



Weighted-average rank scores (higher = more valued).

● Gov/Acad

● Ind/Tech

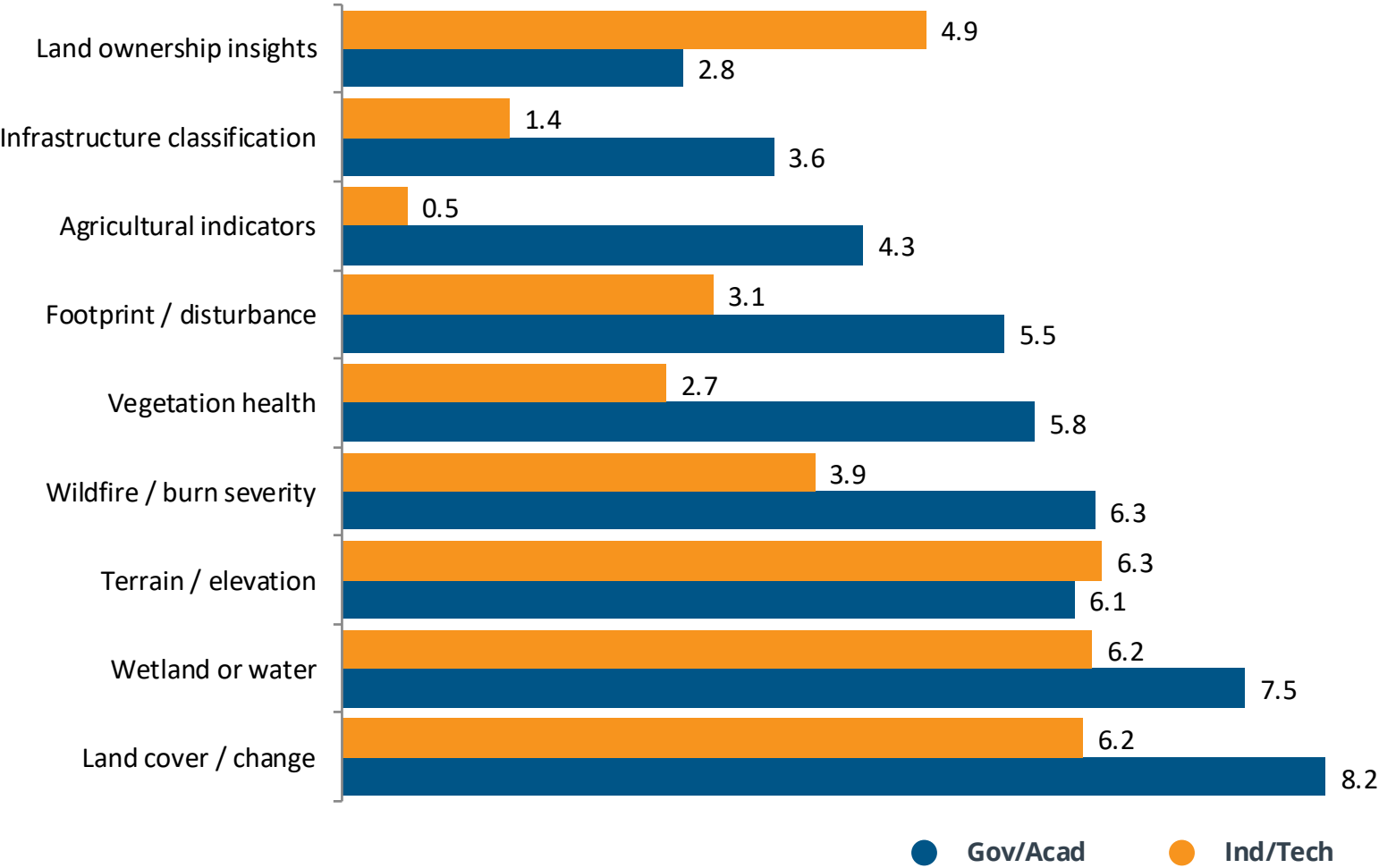
What it means

Both rooms ranked **LIDAR first**, then aerial orthophoto and high-res optical. The trio are tried and true data sources for mapping, engineering and terrain analysis.

Specialized sensors (**thermal, SAR, hyperspectral**) ranked lower but there is value there, such as SAR for wetland classification and surface water levels & extent.

Why it matters: Data from these sensors from providers, such as **Wyvern (hyperspectral)**, will help create increased awareness around their application and use.

Terrain, water & land change identified as priorities



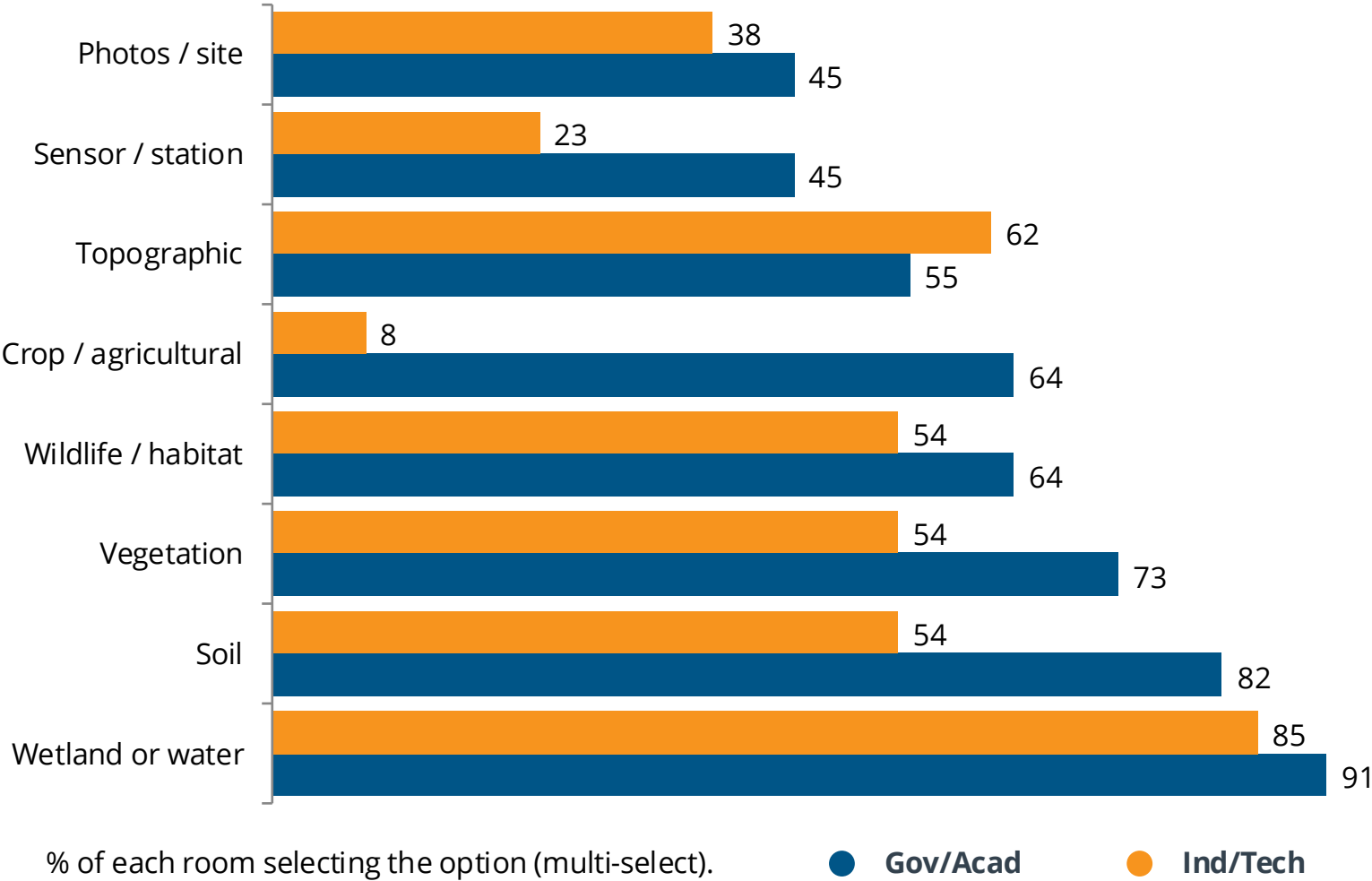
Consensus & divergence

Consensus: land cover/change, wetland & water, and terrain/elevation lead both lists.

Divergence 1 - land ownership: 4th for Ind/Tech vs 9th for Gov/Acad. The RITL project will support this need.

Divergence 2 - agriculture: Agricultural Indicators matter to the Gov/Acad but barely registers with Ind/tech.

Water and soil lead in importance for field verification of EO data

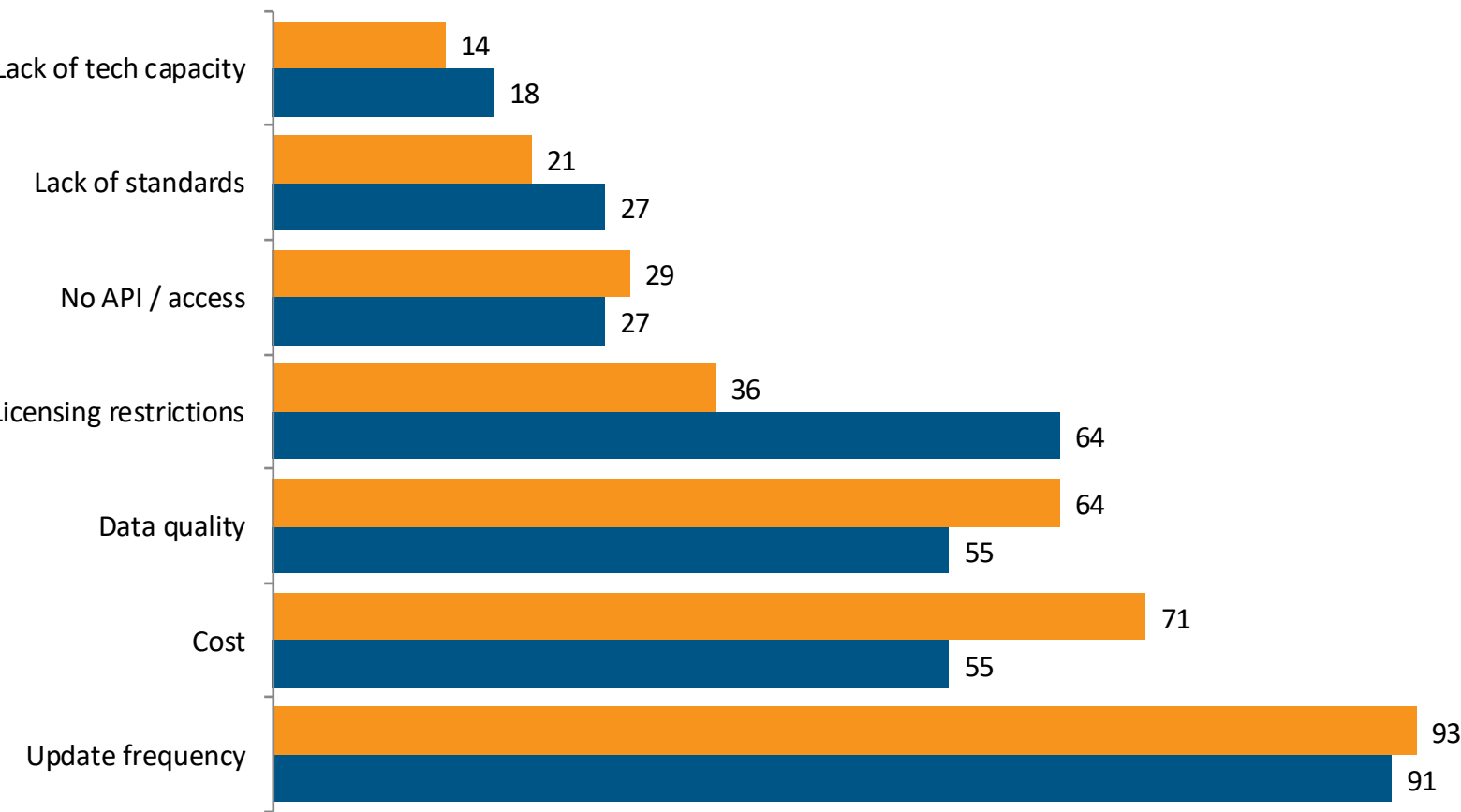


Wetland & water tops both rooms (91% / 85%). Field truth for those products ranked high on the previous slide.

Crop data splits the rooms: 64% vs 8%. This mirrors the agriculture divergence in product rankings.

- Field data and EO data are limited by the same factors:**
- 1. update frequency
 - 2. cost
 - 3. data-quality concerns

Data Currency was selected as the biggest obstacle in both sessions



% of each room selecting the option (multi-select). ● Gov/Acad ● Ind/Tech

90+%

Insight: Update frequency cited as the top barrier in both sessions.

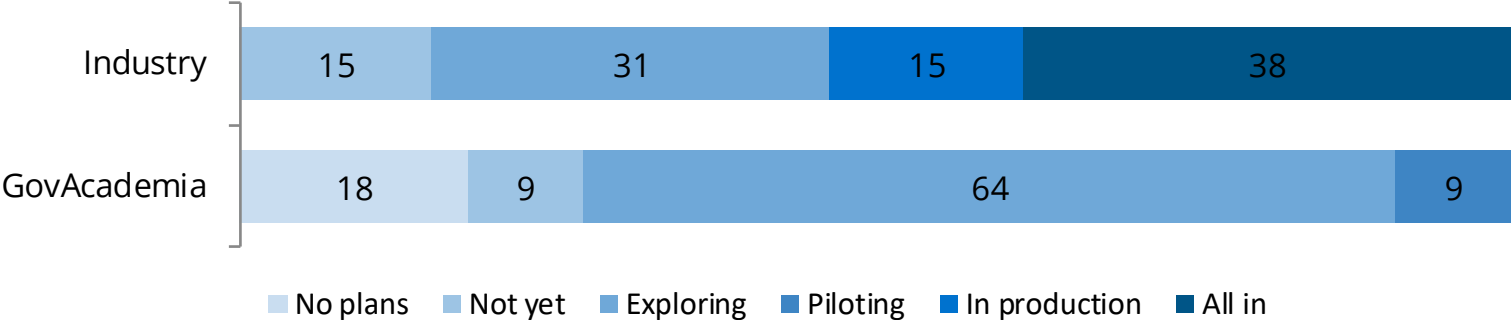
Why it Matters: One of the gaps that ODAA's open, no-cost areas exist to close.

In their own words

- "currency"
- "cost"
- "accessibility"
- "bad metadata"
- "standards"
- "storage costs"
- "consistency"
- "user experience"

AI / ML READINESS

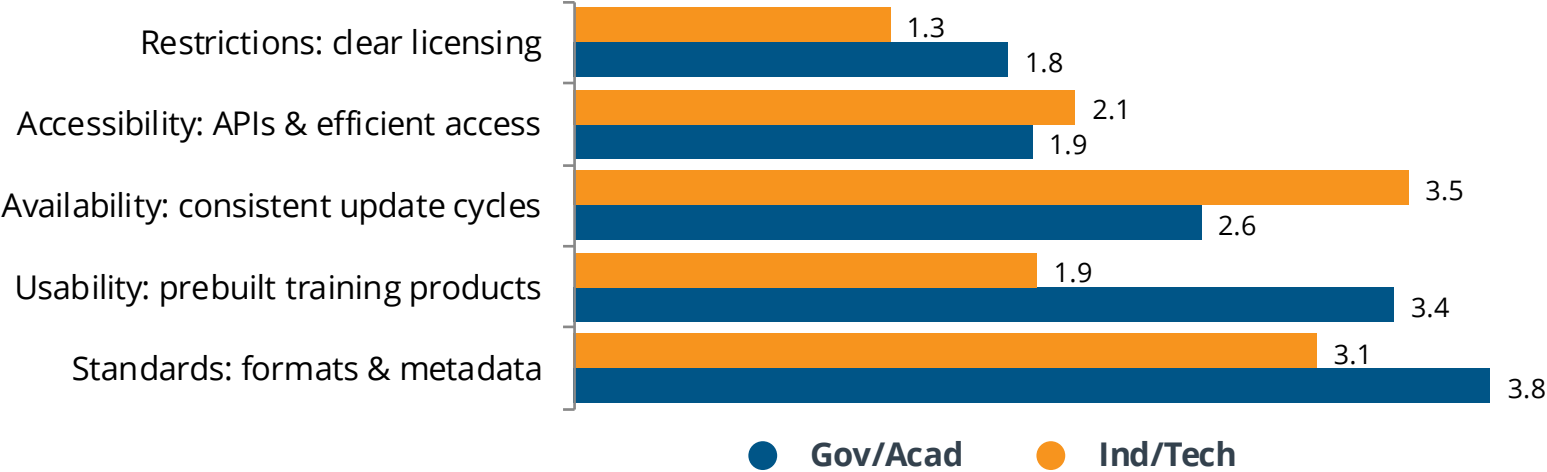
Where is AI/ML in your geospatial business? (% of room)



64% of the Gov/Acad room is still exploring and none report production use.

53% of Ind/Tech is in production (15%) or all-in (38%). AI is already in their product delivery chain.

What makes data AI-ready: weighted rank scores



Mapping land interests

1.3M

registered interests on titled land across Alberta, such as pipelines, easements, rights-of-way, well sites, are recorded today only on individual titles, discoverable only through parcel-by-parcel research.

The long-term goal is one consistent, province-wide view that is updated daily. The same impact disposition mapping (DIDs) made for public land will be extended to private land.

A proof-of-concept inside the open data areas with the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii) guiding the AI approach. The process:

1

AI reads the records

Machine learning extracts location and interest details from title records and their attached plans

2

Experts validate

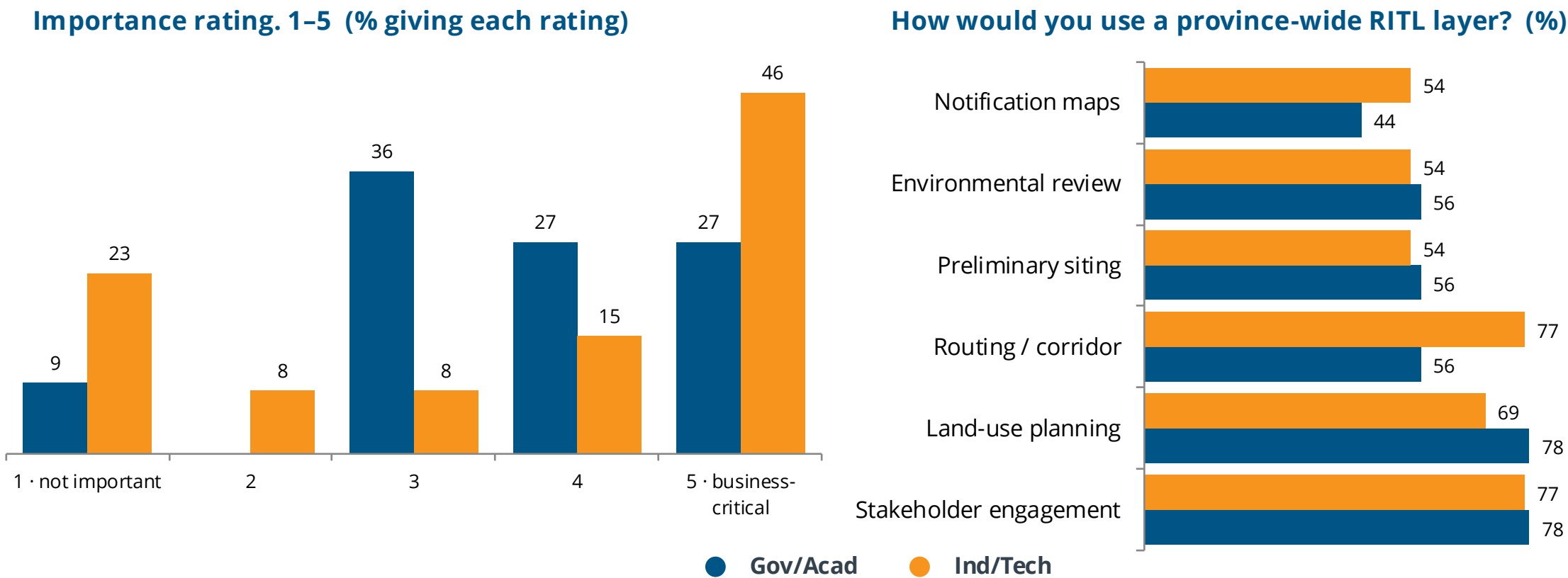
Land information and mapping specialists confirm every extracted interest before it enters the dataset

3

Publish

An integrated, daily-updated layer distributed through the open data areas at no cost

RITL Feedback shows strong support across the board



- **Industry demand** for RITL is strong with the strongest intensity concentrated among consultants engaged in routing and corridor work, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Public sector and academic interest** reflects consistent mid-level engagement centred on land-use planning and stakeholder engagement as the clearest points of alignment with government and academia priorities.

Three Proposed New Open Data Areas

1st Peace River

NW — CLEAR HILLS UPLAND

Energy, forestry and conservation activity; U of A's EMEND project is already on the landscape.

2nd Kananaskis – Fortress

SW — EASTERN SLOPES

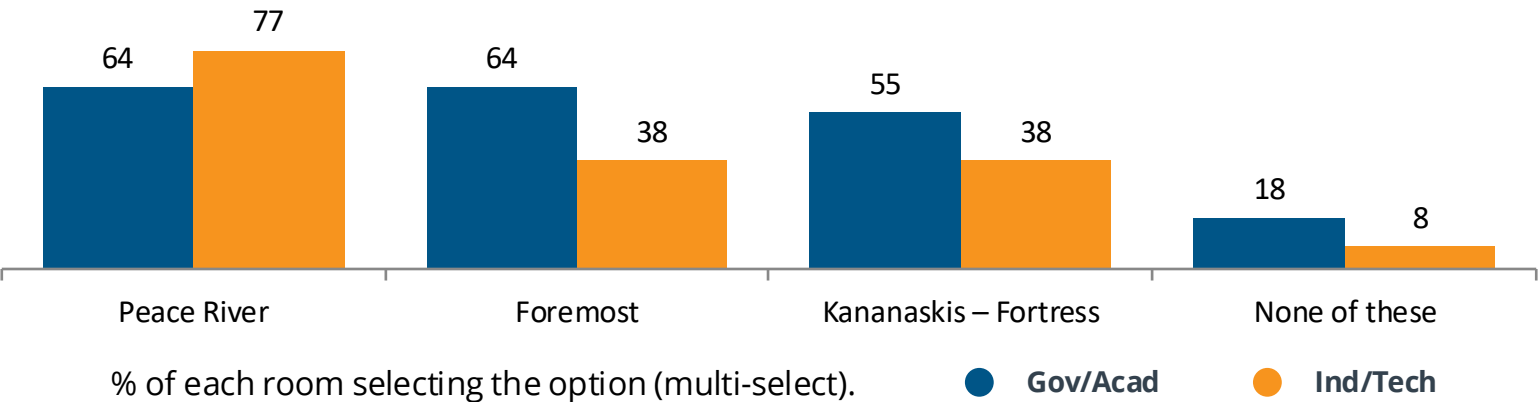
Recreation & tourism growth, watershed and conservation focus, terrain / snow-hazard monitoring.

3rd Foremost

SE — AGRICULTURAL HEARTLAND

Irrigated agriculture, renewables, the Foremost UAS test range, sage-grouse habitat.

Which proposed areas would provide value to you?



Other Areas Suggested by Attendees:

Northern oil sands

Drayton Valley / Edson / Hinton / GP

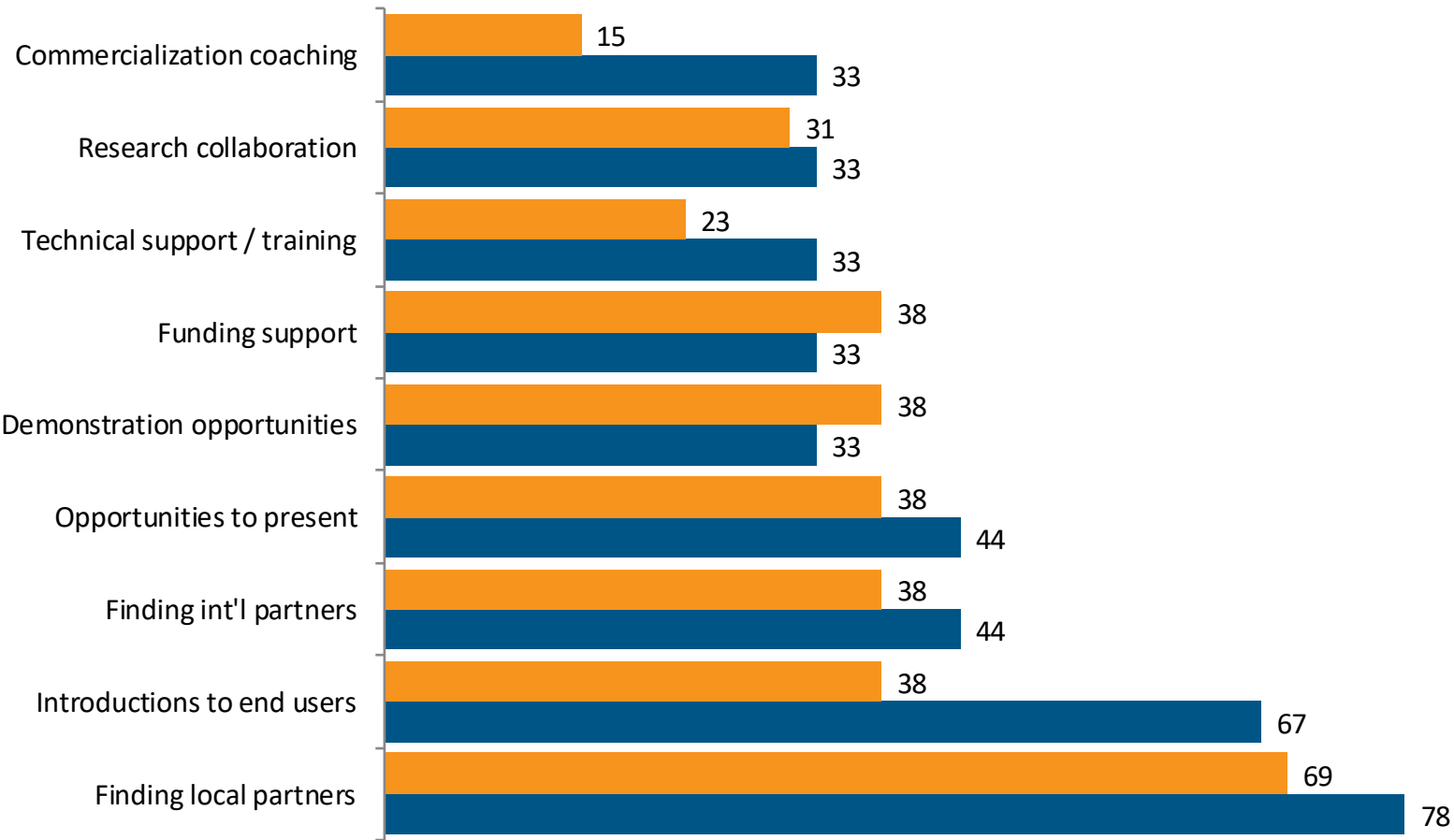
Provincial parks

Lethbridge

Medicine Hat



Beyond data access, which innovation supports would help?



% of each room selecting the option (multi-select). ● Gov/Acad ● Ind/Tech

The top asks are introductions:

Local partners (78% / 69%) and end users (67% for Gov/Acad).

ODAA will be engaging the European Space Agency and European providers seeking Alberta and Canadian pilot partners.

Four themes emerged

1 Data currency is the throughline

Data currency, not just access, was that the top of every poll. It was the top barrier in both rooms, industry's top AI-readiness need, and the loudest word in both word clouds.

2 Trust in the data is paramount

Participants need data they can stand behind to support procurement evaluation, prototyping and AI training, not only data they can download at no-cost.

3 Different AI maturity demands the same fundamentals

GoA/Acad is still exploring AI and Ind/Tech is exploring or in production. Yet both put a version of “consistent, documented, current” at the top of their needs for training data.

4 From raw data to decision-support information

Interest has shifted from raw imagery toward analytic products and land/legal context integrated with the EO Data.

Participants asked for more than data

Not just free data



A trusted geospatial sandbox to support innovation & commercialization

Evaluate datasets, providers and methods before committing budget.
“Judge fitness for purpose before you spend.”

Not just imagery



From landscape change to legal reality

Analytics-ready layers plus land tenure and registered interests (RITL) to connect landscape change to legal reality.

Not just a repository



A connector and ecosystem

Increasing awareness of the ODAA to support connections among innovators, data providers, local partners, and end-users.

Not just blanket coverage



A representative testbed across Alberta's landscape

Diverse and deliberately chosen areas and each are ~2,400 km². Big enough that prototyping and bounded enough that vendors contribute.

IN ONE WORD

What ODAA most needs to get right

1 Awareness

The most repeated ask across both rooms.

"Spread the word!"

2 Accessible

Low-friction discovery and delivery for technical and non-technical users alike.

"Easy data access pipelines"

3 Currency

Fresh at launch and refreshed when appropriate and available.

"Timeliness"

4 Transparent

Adaptable licensing everyone can read, understand and trust.

"Licensing & currency"

5 Defendable

Rigorous metadata and quality standards applied consistently as data, analytics and areas come online.

"Prioritize maintaining quality with spatial expansion"

6 Governance

Clear, consistent rules that give contributors and users equal confidence in the platform.

"Responsible governance"

What happens next?

1

More sessions

August & fall

Additional stakeholder sessions widen input across sectors and region. Area suggestions with rationale are welcome by email before August 30, 2026.

2

Data onboarding

This fall

EO, aerial and analytics providers across Alberta, Canada and Europe are in licensing conversations. New data should start arriving in the areas by the end of 2026.

3

RITL proof-of-concept

Underway

AI extraction of title records, validated by ADP subject-matter experts and guided by Amii will be prototyped inside the open data areas.

4

Roadmap & summary

Ongoing

Feedback from both days feeds directly into the modernization roadmap. This summary goes to every participant, will be posted online and the polls will inform the August sessions.



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THANK YOU

Your input is impacting the modernization roadmap

Explore the current areas: opendataareas.ca

Questions, locations, datasets or partners? erik@abdatapartnerships.ca