

# Calgary Region Hackathon: Connect, Compete and Create a Digital Future

BY CRPADMIN • FEBRUARY 23, 2016 • COMMUNITY, ECONOMY



## **Chad Hason, Content Contributor**

We use technology every day as a means of connecting to what we value. Canadians, more than ever, live in a constantly evolving digital age.

One that improves and contributes to how we shop, play, communicate and are entertained.

We seem to have an unquenchable thirst for consuming information. We've become more reliant on those who create and distribute data in new and engaging ways.

## **Increased access to data**



Photo credit: [City of Calgary](#)

Thanks to groups like the [Calgary Regional Partnership](#) (CRP) and [the City of Calgary](#), we have access to a wealth of data that Albertans value.

Websites like [calgaregionopendata.ca](#) and [data.calgary.ca](#) increase public access to data managed by municipalities in the Calgary Region.

Publicly accessible data means increased government transparency and platforms where open data is available for unrestricted use.

This is valuable because it's how we connect to the message that determines what we find, learn and act upon.

Unlike the 'old days' where you had to search stacks of textbooks, years after the fact – we are blessed with an abundance of data.

Google searches, infographics, applications and engaging (even interactive) videos that make gathering information easy and instant with a tap or swipe of a finger.

But how often do you stop to appreciate the genius and creative minds that provide us with these information-sharing tools?

## Calgary Region Hackathon



*Photo credit: [City of Calgary Hackathon 2015](#)*

That's why the CRP and the City of Calgary created the [Calgary Region Hackathon](#).

To celebrate the hard work of those who create new ways to connect us with relevant information...sometimes in the most unexpected yet delightful manner.

The Calgary Region Hackathon is a three-day competition to develop a software solution (such as mobile apps, websites, or mapping products) using open data from the Calgary Region.

The Hackathon, now in its second year in Calgary, brings programmers, designers, developers, coders, cartographers and general enthusiasts together.

It's an opportunity to celebrate, collaborate and compete together, exploring new ways of connecting the Calgary Region.

It's an opportunity to celebrate, collaborate and explore new ways of connecting.

This three-day event takes place, appropriately, on International [Open Data Day](#); March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It's open to anyone over the age of 18 with an interest in innovation and technology.

## **Flash your data talent**

The Hackathon represents an amazing opportunity for the entire Region to showcase their talents, as both individuals or as part of a team.

The Hackathon represents an amazing opportunity for the entire Region to showcase their talents.

It also provides data enthusiasts a chance to see who and what's out there – as well as what types of communication distribution needs still exist.

With our province reeling from an uncertain economy, seeking new ways to make Alberta strong couldn't come at a better time.

It's an opportunity to network with leaders and up-and-comers within the online data community to create new economic avenues.

The Hackathon builds on the CRP and the City's commitment to transparent communication by engaging with those qualified in making information as accessible and user-friendly as possible.

## **Competition guidelines**

The event, open to data enthusiasts of all professional abilities, follows a science fair format.

Teams of two to six can compete against others in the quest to find new and engaging ways to share information.

If you have expertise in the areas of data sharing, whether by profession, education or hobby – we want you to participate!

Registration for individuals is \$50 (\$35 for students) for the weekend and includes meals, snacks, and an unlimited supply of coffee!

The competition ends on Sunday with an on-stage presentation by the top five scoring teams. The winning teams will be awarded cash prizes for their efforts.

Prizes include:

- \$5000 for the winning team,
- \$2000 for second place,
- \$1000 for third,
- additional cash prizes of \$500 in six other categories!

Plus, the first 100 people to register receive a free swag bag.

[Registration for the Hackathon](#), along with details surrounding the schedule of events, rules and other details can be found by visiting the [Hackathon website](#).

*Chad Hason is a Canadian storyteller and owner of [Candid MarCom](#).*