AI Policy & Regulation

Canada's anticipated Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA), part of Bill C-27, is designed to protect Canadians from risks associated with AI systems, ensure responsible AI development, and enhance Canada's position in global AI development. The AIDA will enforce safety and human rights standards for high-impact AI systems, prohibiting reckless or malicious uses of AI that could cause significant harm. The Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry will have the authority to enforce the Act, including conducting audits and imposing penalties for non-compliance.

In anticipation of AIDA, Canada has also published a voluntary code of practice for the development and use of generative AI systems. This code emphasizes safety, transparency, and fairness, aiming to prevent biases and ensure that AI systems are monitored and transparent to users. Additionally, Canada has implemented a Directive on Automated Decision-Making, which sets requirements for the federal government's use of automated systems, ensuring these systems are transparent, fair, and aligned with human rights standards

Engagement and Initiatives in AI Governance

Canada is actively involved in shaping global AI governance and has committed to several key international frameworks and initiatives. As a member of the OECD, Canada adheres to the OECD's AI Principles, which provide guidelines for developing trustworthy AI systems that respect human rights and democratic values. Canada has endorsed the Hiroshima Process International Guiding Principles for Advanced AI Systems, which emphasize safety, transparency, and accountability in AI development. Additionally, Canada adopted UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, further cementing its commitment to ethical AI practices.

Canada's AI Strategy aims to establish an ecosystem by 2030 that is grounded in scientific excellence, robust talent development, and public-private collaboration. This strategy supports AI technologies that drive positive social, economic, and environmental change. To achieve these goals, Canada has established three key AI institutes: Amii in Edmonton, Mila in Montreal, and the Vector Institute in Toronto

Useful resources

- Canadian Guardrails for Generative AI
- The Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA) – Companion document
- BILL C-27
- Directive on Automated Decision-Making
- The Pan-Canadian AI Strategy

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