

Community Data Program Fall Leads Meeting

October 6, 2026 | 1:30 - 3 pm Eastern Time

Location: CDP Zoom room

[Link to presentation slides](#)

Key Outcomes

The meeting served as a semi-annual check-in for CDP consortium leads, covering end-of-2026 program activities, the outlook for 2027, as well as the 2027–2031 strategic plan. Core mission and services remain unchanged; new initiatives focus on expanding member reach through drop-in sessions, regional events, and non-member training. The 2026 Census acquisition process is underway, with custom geography submissions and member feedback on data priorities actively being collected.

Announcements

- **18 of 31 consortium agreements** up for renewal at the end of 2026; all but one organization has responded or initiated approvals.
- **Consortium fees are locked** for the life of the agreement; the **\$150 annual membership fee** may be reviewed and increased mid-agreement.
- **Leads will be notified shortly after** new data is added to the catalogue.
- **Rental Affordability Dashboard v2** released, now includes Airbnb short-term listings data and time-series comparison.
- **Monthly drop-in sessions** launching October 29th, last Thursday of each month, 3–4 PM Eastern — informal, free, open to any questions or analysis review.

Data Acquisitions — Current & Upcoming

2026 (Wrapping Up):

- Still receiving 2021 Census target group profiles at custom/DA geographies
- Custom order pending: Canadian Community Health Survey, Longitudinal Administrative Data Bank (expected late 2026/early 2027), CMHC data

2027 Focus — 2026 Census:

- Emphasis on **semi-custom tabulations and custom tabulations** at standard geographies; custom geographies not until **2028** (after all topics released ~December)
- Tax filer data redesigned — 2024 and 2025 data releasing next year; some legacy tables may require custom orders
- Working group will meet **more frequently** during census release year to prioritize acquisitions

Strategic Plan Highlights (2027–2031)

- **Core mission and three service pillars unchanged:** data access, technical support, connecting practitioners
- Key additions:
 - **Promote services more actively** — members encouraged to ask for anything, anytime
 - **Regional in-person events** replace national events (too exclusive, resource-intensive); first planned for **3rd week of May in New Brunswick** (Atlantic Canada focus)

- **Non-member training/analytics service** expanding, including partnership with **PolicyWise** for Western Canada/Prairies workshops
- **AI guidance**: focus on providing member guidance on responsible AI use (webinars + written guidance), not integrating AI into operations

Q&A Highlights

- **Q (Matt, Toronto):** Will AI guidance be a webinar, written document, or tool?

A: Both — AI webinar planned late 2026, written practical guidance in development; focus is specifically on responsible use of CDP's own data.

- **Q (William, Northern Policy Institute):** Can previously submitted shapefiles be reused for 2026 Census?

A: Leads can request existing files from Mike (mike@communitydata.ca). All custom geographies must be resubmitted for each census cycle.

Custom Geography Submissions

- Submit as **shapefile or correspondence file** with documentation template (email mike@communitydata.ca for template)
- **Early production run target:** submissions in by **August–September 2028** (estimate) to allow geocoding, verification, and inclusion before December census profile release
- Leads asked to coordinate consortium submissions and communicate with CDP regarding anticipated submission timeline.

Webinars

- **Confirmed upcoming (2026):** Moneris (next week), StatsCan on Food Insecurity in Canada (November 3rd)
- **Dates TBD (possibly early 2027):** AI webinar (Charitability), University of Toronto School of Cities — Mapping Tariff Initiatives
- Members can request webinar topics anytime; contact sadie@communitydata.ca

Pending Confirmation

- Final census feedback deadline not set, but feedback received **by end of 2026** will inform early 2027 acquisitions
- Written AI guidance format and timeline not yet determined
- London, Ontario regional event (Southwest Ontario Consortium) — preliminary conversations only, not confirmed

Action Items

- **Sadie:** Send follow-up email with full meeting package (slides + materials) to all leads
- **Mike:** Send census feedback reminders to members; distribute custom geography documentation template
- **All Members:** Submit 2026 Census acquisition feedback — priority topics, table preferences, geography needs — ideally before end of 2026

Participants

1.	Michel Frojmovic, Community Data Program	CDP
2.	Michael Ditor, Community Data Program	CDP
3.	August Tensuda, Community Data Program	CDP
4.	Sadie Hejazi, Community Data Program	CDP
4.	Celina Caesar-Chavannes	CCEDNet
6.	Ahmed Lelamo, City of Vancouver	BC
7.	Amanda Hobin, Durham Region	Durham
8.	Brenden Harvey (City of Calgary)	Calgary
9.	Caitlyn Paget (APHEO, Durham)	Durham
10.	Gillian McCrudden	Durham
11.	Gunisha Kaur	Edmonton
12.	Heather (Regina, Sask)	Regina
13.	Jonathan	Simcoe
14.	Jordan Meisel, Four counties labour market board	SWO
15.	Josh Dunsworth	Kawartha Lakes
16.	Lauren Rethoret - Selkirk College	Columbia Basin Boundary
17.	Laurie Dixon (City of Kingston)	KFLA
18.	Liam Fisher HDC	NB
19.	louisa wong(hamilton)	Hamilton
20.	Maira de Avila Wilton, City of Vancouver	BC
21.	Mat Krepicz (City of Toronto)	Toronto
22.	Michael Whyte	WDG

23.	Natalie Hui (York Region)	York
24.	Rachel Lewis - City of Kawartha Lakes	Kawartha Lakes
25.	Sarah Tiller(she/her)-County of Simcoe	Simcoe
26.	Sathya Gnaniah	LIPs Secretariat
27.	Sjavadi, City of London	SWO
28.	Social Planning Council Winnipeg	Manitoba
29.	Vanessa Zhu	Peel
30.	William Dunstan	Northern Ontario

Agenda

1:30 - 1:45 Welcome and roundtable introduction (Michel)

1:45 - 2:30 CDP Workplan Priorities – 2026 and 2027

2026 - What's left in the calendar year

1. Data Updates (Mike)
2. Webinars (Sadie)
3. Tableau Dashboards: Rental Affordability Dashboard version 2.0 (August)
4. New: Introducing Monthly drop-in sessions (for members) (August)
5. New: Introducing Community Data Analytics and Training series (fee for service) (Michel- August)
6. Consortium MOA renewal (Michel-Mike)

Emerging priorities for 2027-2031: Highlights of member survey feedback and CDP strategic planning team retreat (Michel)

1. CDP mission remains unchanged: “Enable communities across Canada to measure and track local well being”
2. Core priorities remain unchanged: the community data consortium model; access to custom data/custom geographies; technical support & webinars; connecting a Canada-wide network of data practitioners
3. Potential initiatives coming out of the strategic planning process:
 - Broaden the fee-for-service Community Data Analytics and Training Service
 - Monthly “Community Data Drop-in Clinics” for members
 - Better Promote CDP membership
 - Replace national in-person events with regional events
 - Open-source infographics
 - “Use of AI for Data Analysis” guidance

2027 Schedule B including plans for Census 2026 (Mike)

1. Review of 2027 Schedule B
2. 2026 Census rollout
3. Feedback on 2026 Census acquisition priorities
4. Census 2026 Custom geographies

2:30 - 3:00 Open discussion - Wrap up