

# Creating a Vision, Principles, and Objectives for Data Governance & Management

## INTRODUCTION

Your SGIG probably already has some kind of vision or goal statement about hopes for the future, including what “well-being” looks like for the community and its people. Good data governance and management systems are a key tool in helping you work towards that future. It’s important that you also have a vision, principles, and objectives specifically for data governance and management:

- Vision: What you want your data governance and management system to achieve for you
- Principles: Values that guide the direction of your data work
- Objectives: Specific actions to be taken to achieve the vision

**This is a crucial step.** The vision, principles, and objectives will be the foundation for all data governance and management work. They provide direction to your government’s staff. This is key to developing a culture within your government that values data as a key part of self-determination. Strong direction from the leadership of your government will ensure that processes carry on even when there are changes in staff.

When it comes to developing a vision, principles, and objectives, process is as important as the product. The visioning process is an opportunity to get buy-in from all partners by bringing them together to agree on what you are doing and why.

The six steps below outline the general process for developing these components.

## STEP 1: THINK ABOUT WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED

The visioning process gathers views from as many partners as possible about the future of your government’s socioeconomic data governance and management.

Anyone who will be affected by socioeconomic data governance and management processes should be consulted. This could include SGIG decision makers, and staff and managers from multiple departments. Since SGIGs are accountable to their citizens for the decisions they make about how to handle personal data, it is critical that citizens also have a say in developing the data governance processes.

Ultimately, a core group of decision makers, senior managers, and staff will need to incorporate feedback from partners to develop the final product. Think about who should be in this core group.

## STEP 2: REVIEW ANY EXISTING VISIONING PRODUCTS RELATED TO SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOMES

Your government may have been through visioning processes in the past related to socioeconomic outcomes, such as a comprehensive community planning process. Your vision for socioeconomic data governance and management can build on that past work.

## STEP 3: CONSULT PARTNERS

Bring together the partners you identified in Step 1 to get their input on what should be addressed in the vision, principles, and objectives.

## STEP 4: DEVELOP THE VISION, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

The core group of decision makers, senior managers, and staff identified in step 1 will work together to develop the vision, principles, and objectives. This group will take in the feedback collected by partners in step 3 and past visioning products identified in step 2.

## STEP 5: COMMUNICATE YOUR VISION, PRINCIPLES, AND OBJECTIVES

Now that you know what they are, you can communicate the vision, principles, and objectives to all partners.

## STEP 6: IMPLEMENT

The vision, principles, and objectives are implemented through the development of consistent data governance and management practices.

## EXAMPLES

### Vision:

The BC First Nations' Data Governance Initiative (BCFNDGI) [Data Governance Framework](#) includes the following example of a vision:

Our Nation governs and protects all Nation data and information, wherever it resides, supporting the needs of our Nation, communities, Nation Organizations, and Members, as well as the needs of the partners we collaborate with.

### Principles:

The BC First Nations' Data Governance Initiative (BCFNDGI) [Data Governance Framework](#) includes the following examples of principles:

**Principle 1:** Our Nation, through the Stewardship Model described in our Data Governance Framework, governs all Nation Data, regardless of where it is stored or how it is identified.

**Principle 2:** All undertakings and publications that involve identifiable Nation Data will be culturally

appropriate and benefit the well-being of our Nation. To ensure this occurs the Data Governance Board will be involved in all aspects of management over Nation Data.

**Principle 3:** The Data Governance Board will develop and maintain processes that ensure access to Nation Data is enabled in a secure and protective manner regardless of where it is stored.

**Principle 4:** The Data Governance Board will promote the creation, maintenance, and storage of Nation Data within its own environments whenever feasible. Nation Data stored in another Party's environment will be governed by the Nation Stewards in accordance with our Data Governance Framework.

**Principle 5:** All Data Governance standards and policies affecting Nation Data are established by the Data Governance Board.

**Principle 6:** The Data Governance Board will establish policies and procedures regarding the collection and use of Nation Data and establish mechanisms to monitor compliance with these policies and procedures.

**Principle 7:** The Data Governance Board will promote specific policies and procedures to guide data disclosure.

**Principle 8:** Electronic Nation Data stored in a system and disclosed to another system must have the approval of the Data Governance Board.

**Principle 9:** The Nation will protect the privacy of individuals.

## Objectives:

Here are some examples of objectives that an SGIG might have:

- To generate and maintain accurate, reliable, useful, and timely data to set priorities, make decisions, and be accountable to their citizens/members.
- To create systems to help SGIG staff achieve their objectives.
- To create systems that are straightforward and efficient to use and manage.
- To create systems that are sustainable over the long term.