

Leading digital transformation

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PANELLISTS



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Natural Resources
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Ressources naturelles
Canada

Leading Digital Transformation

Vik Pant, PhD, Chief Scientist and Chief Science Advisor, Natural Resources Canada

Canada

Advancing Digital Transformation

1

Accelerate applications of Digital Technologies

Provide cross-functional data science service to NRCAN sectors

2

Promote a Digital-Driven Culture

Key initiatives to nurture human capital

3

Develop Strategic Partnerships

Leverage an ecosystem, built on mutually beneficial partnerships and networks

4

Establish Governance of Digital solutions

Strategic integration of advanced analytic solutions & technologies

RESEARCH
MONEY

NRCAN's Digital Accelerator team applies big data and AI to answer policy questions

By Lindsay Barthwick (<https://researchmoneyinc.com/author/lindsaybarthwick/>)
Published on March 17, 2021

Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) is using advances in artificial intelligence and related digital technologies to deliver insights to policymakers.

The Digital Accelerator (<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/digital-accelerator/>) — an in-house team of data scientists, business and policy experts dedicated to building data-driven software tools — is applying AI across NRCAN "where we can have breakthrough results," according to Dr. Vik Pant (PhD), Chief Scientist and Departmental Science Advisor at NRCAN.

The model is also inspiring other science-based departments and agencies (SBDAs) to think about new ways to leverage the masses of data they collect and drive a much-needed digital transformation in government.

Since its launch 18 months ago, NRCAN's Digital Accelerator is being led by Pant whose team is working on dozens of AI and data science projects related to energy, forestry, mining, and oil and gas. Pant said science, including data science, has always fed the policymaking process at NRCAN, which employs more than 2,000 scientists and researchers and spends more than \$500 million annually on science and technology.

"What's different now is machine learning," he said in an interview with *Research Money*. "We are supplementing and complementing the insights coming from traditional AI with insights from machine learning, then sharing those results and helping to answer policy questions."

Current projects include:

- analyzing geospatial data to support flood mapping and emergency management in flood zones.

A HILLTIMES

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Build a More Sustainable Canada

There's a misconception that government lags the private sector when it comes to innovation — this couldn't be further from the truth. We are constantly seeing the ways in which federal departments and agencies at all levels within the public sector are using tools like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to conduct cutting-edge research, make processes more efficient, evolve citizen engagement and analyze data to better plan for the future.

One of the departments that is leading these initiatives is Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), the federal government's department responsible for the development of Canada's natural resources, including energy, forests, minerals and metals. According to Dr. Vik Pant, Chief Scientist and Chief Science Advisor for NRCAN, the government is proactively engaged in identifying new opportunities and solutions for AI and the degree of maturity and sophistication in which they do so is leaps and bounds ahead of where it was, even two years ago, prior to Dr. Pant's arrival to NRCAN.

Dr. Pant says the application of AI in the public sector is comprised of a few different components but that at a high-level, it's about the creative application of innovative technology to accelerate science and policy integration. NRCAN is at the forefront of innovation in the federal government, placing solutions like Microsoft Azure AI at the core of its digital strategy to create a more sustainable and prosperous future for Canadians. Whether it is applied in an advisory or regulatory role, AI is a crucial element in several ongoing pilot projects currently being conducted by NRCAN.

Sustainably scaling a Digital Accelerator

- Grow a partner ecosystem: Focus on non-traditional enterprise relationships
- Focus on value co-creation: Avoid turn-key options
- Tie investments to objectives: Answer the so-what question
- Simplify knowledge-sharing: Prioritize demand-pull over supply-push approach
- Adopt a multi-speed enterprise architecture: Encourage experimentation and exploration



Partner with us

Digital Accelerator



Revolutionizing the way we serve Canadians through digital innovation

Artificial intelligence is an important investment NRCan is making to "future proof" the department and support the natural resources sector. Learn how artificial intelligence and big data will modernize the way we work, advance science and accelerate innovation.

Innovation in practice
NRCan scientists and researchers are applying innovative digital solutions to support sustainable development and the competitiveness of Canada's natural resource sector.



Energy

Driving clean, sustainable growth to enhance energy sector competitiveness, allowing for better prediction of energy usage and technology development.



Mining

Harnessing innovation to enhance efficiency, lower costs, increase productivity, and improve environmental performance in the mining sector.



Forestry

Transforming Canada's forestry sector - across value and supply chains - through the development of technologies that increase operational efficiency and enhance the use of big data.

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Leading Digital Transformation

Scott Adams, Palantir

Observation: the fastest way to drive sustainable digital transformation, is to wrap technology around a **high-impact, high-urgency** problem

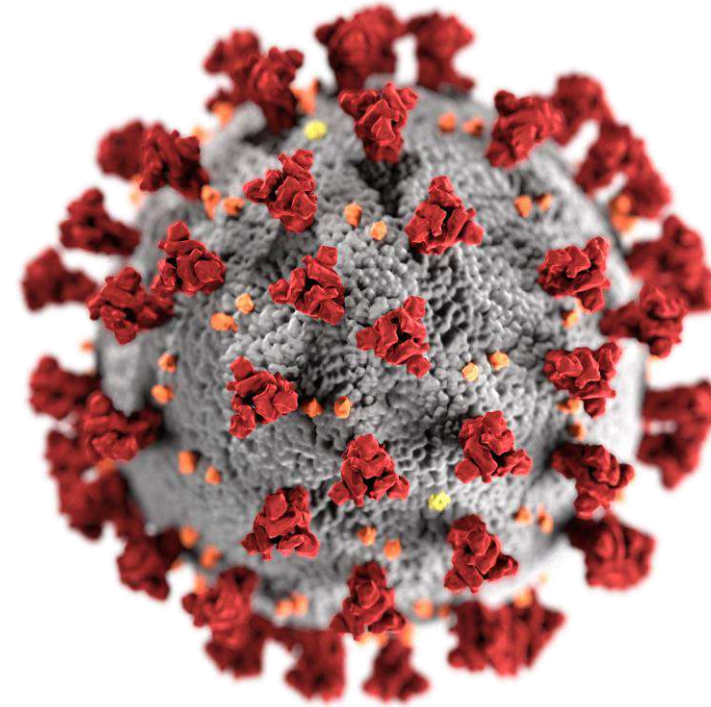
Observation: the fastest way to drive sustainable digital transformation, is to wrap technology around a **high-impact, high-urgency** problem

Why?

- 1. They are salient**
- 2. They are thorny**

Problem: Covid-19 Vaccination Roll-out

- **6 weeks** to stand up a brand new supply chain
- **Millions of doses** of a **new product** to administer
- Constant **uncertainty**
- **Brownfield** of existing systems and processes

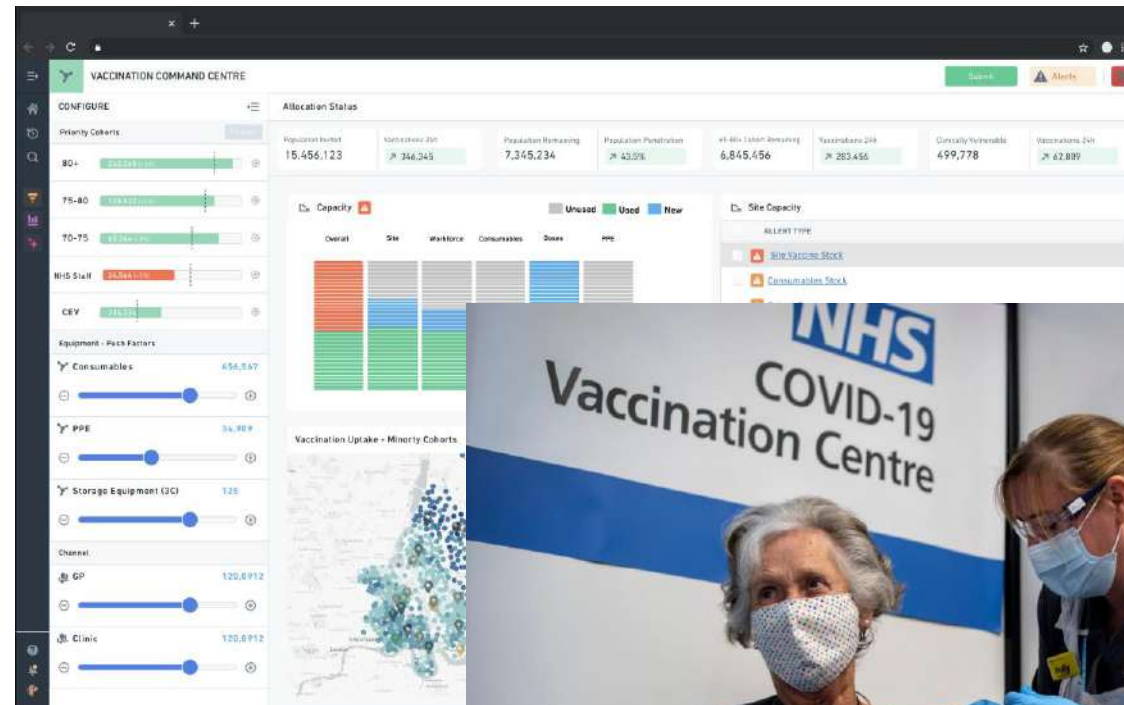


Solution: Use technology to solve the *solved problems*

In 6 weeks:

- **100+ data sources** integrated to form a near real time vaccination data asset
- **25+ applications** built and rolled out to **over 4000 users**
- **Purpose-based access control** across all data assets

=> **The fastest vaccination roll-out in Europe**



Observation: the fastest way to drive sustainable digital transformation, is to wrap technology around a **high-impact, high-urgency** problem

Learn more about Palantir Foundry:

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