Advancing Diamond Open Access in Canada

A framework for equitable and sustainable publishing

Executive Summary

Canada is home to over 600 diamond open access[1] journals, representing 64%[2] of the country's scholarly journals. This diamond open access ecosystem is supported by editorial teams, library publishing programs, non-commercial infrastructures and public funding mechanisms at both national and provincial levels. The *Advancing Diamond / Vers l'horizon diamant* event, organized by Coalition Publica in Montréal (Tiohtià:ke) on April 15-16, 2026, brought together participants representing the full breadth of Canada's diamond OA ecosystem to create a space for dialogue among communities that often work independently despite pursuing shared objectives.

This report synthesizes discussions, workshops, and participant reflections from the event. It seeks to develop a common understanding of the state of diamond OA in Canada, clarify the roles and contributions of the different groups that sustain it, and identify shared priorities and opportunities for collaboration. Through a collaborative process, the perspectives shared at the event were organized around four themes: sustainable publishing economies, community growth, knowledge sharing, and opportunities for collaboration.

Key Insights

Advancing Diamond Open Access in Canada: A framework for equitable and sustainable publishing represents a diamond OA community in Canada that is poised for action.

Canada's diamond open access scholarly publishing ecosystem has many strengths. It is decentralized, with diverse actors operating across the country, many of whom are already embedded in universities. There is linguistic variety, notably the substantial amount of French language academic journals. There is enviable national funding for diamond OA in Canada. Evolving opinions about the true meaning of prestige and impact strengthen the argument for Canadian, community-governed management of academic output versus outsourcing to multinational corporate publishers.

However, enthusiasm for diamond OA is tempered with an acknowledgment of challenges. Variety and diversity make for a unique and creative publishing profile in Canada, but this can also give rise to issues related to standardization, coordination, interoperability, and sustainability, particularly since expertise, infrastructure, and resources are unevenly distributed across institutions, regions, and groups. Additional resources are still often

[1] Diamond open access is a publishing model in which scholarly research is freely available to readers and free of charges for authors. Costs are covered by the research sector and public funders through institutional contributions, grants, and cooperative funding arrangements. Diamond open access journals are non-commercial and rooted in the research community.

[2] Simon Van Bellen and Adrien Savard-Arseneault (2026). *Revues savantes canadiennes/Canadian scholarly journals* [Data set](Version V1). Borealis https://doi.org/10.5683/SP4/YBWVYC

needed to meet ongoing operational needs of diamond OA journals and lift the burden of unrecognized labour. And as the report outlines, the Canadian academic system is facing austerity measures and needs to think prudently about financial management, including the benefit of circulating and growing resources internally rather than sending them outward to commercial actors.

A sectoral approach is recommended that outlines the strongest impact each part of the academic system could have. This is not to suggest that different actors should move forward independent of each other; rather, a coordinated, multistakeholder approach is most likely to be successful in the Canadian academic context. There is a need to better engage with those who were not as well represented at the *Advancing Diamond* event, including university administration, graduate students and early career researchers, additional researchers and faculty in other disciplines, and scholarly societies.

Avenues for Collaboration

The report recommends eight avenues for collaboration, in service of a country-wide, strategic approach to building and sustaining diamond open access:

1. Coordinating national digital research infrastructure for scholarly communication
2. Expanding networks
3. Pooling resources and training initiatives
4. Coordinating advocacy efforts
5. Advocating for reform in research assessment and publication-centered incentives
6. Building stronger engagement with STEM disciplines
7. Engaging the next generation of researchers
8. Producing and sharing the data needed for action

The infrastructure and expertise is already in place to facilitate diamond open access publishing in Canada: what is needed is an agreed-upon multisectoral strategy and empowered, coordinating mechanisms to further it.