Panel Discussion: Global Connections – Connecting registries and data standardization

Corporate Registers Forum (CRF), Maldives 2022

September 24, 2022
Connecting Canada’s Business Registries

Objectives:
• Present Canada’s journey of connecting business registries across the country as a successful example of connectivity.
• Share lessons learned.
• Discuss implications for a more global approach.
Canada

Canada is a federation made up of 10 provinces and 3 territories.
Canada has 13 business registries and a federal database.
Consequences

**Productivity loss:**
Businesses are *wasting valuable time* trying to manage their registrations across Canada.

**Fragmentation:**
Canadian and international clients searching for business information *do not have one authoritative source* for verified and validated business information.

**Integrity issues:**
Errors between registries for the same business result in *confusion* and *loss of trust.*
Consequences (continued)

Non-compliance:
Outdated information results in non-compliance with provincial, territorial, or federal guidelines.

Integrity issues:
Errors between registries result in confusion and bureaucratic inefficiencies.

Lack of progress:
No significant advances have been made to address duplicative corporate registrations with multiple registries since the 1994 Agreement on Internal Trade.

From an internal trade perspective
Bridging the gaps

(1 of 4)

Connecting Canada’s Business Registries

*MRAS = Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service
Connecting Canada’s Business Registries

**1 Extra-provincial registration**

A real-time transaction that allows a business to retrieve its core information from its home jurisdiction and use it to register in another jurisdiction.

*MRAS = Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service*
Connecting Canada’s Business Registries

1 Extra-provincial registration
2 Change notifications

Changes made by a business in one jurisdiction are communicated to the other jurisdictions in which the business is registered to operate.

*MRAS = Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service
Bridging the gaps
(4 of 4)

Connecting Canada’s Business Registries

1 Extra-provincial Registration
2 Change notifications
3 Search
Allows the public to search for a business across registries instead of having to search each registry individually.

*MRAS = Multi-jurisdictional Registry Access Service
Currently, 7 partners are actively interoperating with MRAS.

- 5 offering streamlined registration services.
- 6 relying on automated change notifications.
- 7 participating in unified search, representing over 97% of business corporations in Canada.
Co-development

2016  Proof of concept.

2017  Working prototype.

2018  Launch of beta search service.

2020  Pilot Phase 1: streamlined registration and automated notifications.

2021  Pilot Phase 2: adding business registries.

2022+ Production: continuing to add business registries.
Results

Reduced burden
“Expanding my business is easy when they have my information.”

Trusted information
“I can verify the business I want to work with in one quick search.”

Global visibility
“Finding a business operating in Canada is fast and easy.”
Lessons learned

• **Engagement**: Establish vision together.

• **Guardrails**: Ground rules to support the exploration of a solution.

• **Design thinking and Agile methodology**: Enable the development and testing of client-driven solutions.

• **Communication**: Communication, communication, communication
Thank you

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