

SECOND ANNUAL CALGARY REGION HACKATHON IS UPON US

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The second annual [Calgary Region Hackathon](#) will take place from November 17 to 19, 2017 hosted by the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP), in partnership with the [Alberta Geomatics Group](#), [DeltaGEO](#) and [SAIT](#)!

Using data from the new and improved [Calgary Region Open Data Catalogue](#), Hackathon participants will be challenged to create maps, apps, or websites that answer the question: '*Why Calgary Region?*' while competing for a \$5000 grand prize!

In addition to the prizes, the Hackathon is also an incredible opportunity for participants to network, learn from their peers, build their resume, and have fun!



Calgary Region Hackathon 2016 Participants

Why Calgary Region?

Hackathon participants are encouraged to be creative and innovative as they create a map or software solution that embodies why the Calgary Region is so great! From the foothills to the prairies, the Calgary Region is a well-connected system of economies, landscapes, places, and communities and there are a multitude of ways to represent that in a map or app.

There is also an abundance of open data available on the Calgary Region Open Data catalogue to help inspire these creative and innovative maps and apps!

To see the CRP's answer to the question 'Why Calgary Region?' Check out our [Story Map](#).

Open Data

The Calgary Region Open Data catalogue provides free and open access to over 100 datasets from all over the [Calgary Region](#) and new datasets are being added on a continual basis. Open data is **freely available to everyone** in one or more open and accessible formats such as imagery, tables, shapefiles, etc.

"Open Data is an incredible source of information that promotes transparency and innovation that is often untapped," says Jessica Letizia, CRP Regional GIS Program Lead. *"That is one of the reasons we are hosting this hackathon, so that people throughout the Calgary Region understand that this data is available and free to use."*



In addition, the recently updated [Municipal Government Act](#) (MGA) requires that municipalities are governed in an open and transparent manner, which open data contributes to. In fact, the Government of Alberta has their own open data site “*designed to improve government transparency, and ensure better collaboration between government and citizens.*”

In anticipation of the Hackathon, the CRP and municipalities in the Calgary Region have been adding and updating data to ensure that there will be a rich inventory of information to choose from for participants.

Get Involved

There are currently still opportunities available for Hackathon [Participants](#) – regular admission is \$50 and student admission is \$35. Open to anyone that is interested, participants will compete in teams of two to six people over the three-day competition. Mentors, representing the public and private sector, will also be available all weekend to act as a sounding board or assist participants with technical issues.



Calgary Region Hackathon 2016 Participants hard at work on opening night

If you have any questions or comments, please email gis@calgaryregion.ca or follow [@crpgis](https://twitter.com/crpgis) on Twitter to stay updated on all things GIS in the Calgary Region!

There are also still [Mentoring](#) and [Sponsorship](#) opportunities available.