



# Quarterly Newsletter

June 2025 | DAMA Edmonton E-Newsletter

## *Announcement*

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Hello, and welcome to the June edition of the DAMA Edmonton e-newsletter. In this issue, we'll share some exciting updates from our chapter, including upcoming events, workshops, and a sneak peek at our 11th Annual Data Management Conference this November. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just beginning your data journey, there's something here for everyone. We hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter and find it both informative and inspiring. Thank you for being a part of DAMA Edmonton—we couldn't do it without you!

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Fellow data professionals and friends of DAMA Edmonton, welcome to our June 2025 newsletter! The past year has been a watershed moment for our community: AI governance moved from theory to board priority, composable architectures began displacing monoliths, and GenAI proved it could draft policies as easily as it classifies data. Your engagement—whether at our annual conference, lively chapter meetings, or hands-on CDMP workshops—has kept Edmonton at the forefront of these breakthroughs. I’m grateful for the record 200+ attendees who joined us last fall, the letters of support from both the Premier and the Mayor, and the 90 percent satisfaction score you awarded our sessions with legends like Bill Inmon and David Marco. Thank you for proving that when Alberta’s data community comes together, we set the bar high.

Building on that momentum, our goals for 2025 are clear: inspire, upskill, and connect. Each monthly Chapter meeting (fourth Thursday, 5–7 p.m. at Edmonton Unlimited) will feature thought-leader keynotes, followed by networking sessions where you can pressure-test ideas with peers. Member feedback also drives our calendar of interactive workshops—expect deep dives into AI ethics, composable data fabrics, and agentic-AI prompt governance—plus new hackathons and events that turn theory into prototypes over a single weekend. Whether you have decades of experience or are just starting in data management, there’s a volunteer role or learning path waiting for you.

And, of course, mark **November 12–15** for our **11th Annual Data Management Conference** at NAIT’s Productivity & Innovation Centre. Workshops bookend the main event (Nov 13–14), with certification exams on Nov 15, so you can leave armed with both insights and credentials. Our conference theme this year is “AI Evolution: From Chaos to Order” and early-bird communications will soon reveal keynote presentation themes—from AI-driven data strategies to the legislative horizon shaping our profession. I invite you to register early, invite colleagues, and help us keep DAMA Edmonton the province’s hub for trustworthy, value-driven data excellence. See you at our next meeting—and thank you for making this community thrive.

Warm regards,

Stephen Kaiser  
President, DAMA Edmonton Chapter

## DATA GOVERNANCE IN THE AGE OF REAL-TIME ANALYTICS

As organizations embrace real-time decision-making, data governance is undergoing a transformation. In 2025, data leaders are being challenged to shift from static, retrospective oversight to dynamic, responsive governance models that can keep pace with the velocity of data. Financial services, healthcare, and utilities are already embedding governance into streaming analytics pipelines—ensuring that data lineage, usage rights, and quality controls are applied within milliseconds, not months. With the rise of generative AI and low-latency platforms, the ability to trace, secure, and validate data as it's used is no longer optional—it's foundational.

Recent insights from Gartner, DATAVERSITY, and Atlan point to a growing demand for **agile governance**—a discipline that balances control with speed. This means automated policy enforcement, embedded metadata, and real-time dashboards that monitor data flows and detect non-compliant behavior instantly. In Canada, where institutions must navigate both domestic regulations (PIPEDA, C-27) and global privacy laws, adopting real-time governance is becoming a competitive differentiator. The organizations that do it well are not only reducing regulatory risk but also accelerating insights, improving trust in AI models, and delivering stronger digital services to customers.

To understand how to operationalize these strategies, DAMA Edmonton invites you to attend our **11th Annual Data Management Conference**, taking place **November 12–14** at NAIT's Productivity and Innovation Centre. You'll hear directly from Canadian data leaders on how they're embedding real-time controls in streaming data environments. Our **monthly chapter meetings**, held **the fourth Thursday of each month at Edmonton Unlimited**, also offer hands-on conversations about how to modernize data governance without slowing innovation. These events are excellent opportunities to learn, network, and keep your data strategy future-proof.

## AI GOVERNANCE AS A STRATEGIC PRIORITY

With composable data platforms unlocking unprecedented agility, executives are discovering an uncomfortable truth: speed without guardrails is a reputational time-bomb. The IAPP's 2025 AI Governance Profession Report finds that more than 60 percent of large enterprises have appointed a Chief AI Ethics Officer and stood up cross-functional governance boards to steer model development, risk scoring, and continuous monitoring—up from just 18 percent two years ago. This rapid professionalization signals that AI oversight has moved from the compliance desk to the C-suite, carrying budget, KPIs, and board-level scrutiny.

Why the urgency? Analysts at BABL AI and Forbes point to a sharp rise in regulatory proposals worldwide and a parallel spike in consumer expectations for transparency and fairness. At the same time, DBTA's 2025 Outlook warns that ransomware actors are already probing model pipelines and unstructured training data, forcing CIOs to integrate cybersecurity controls into AI lifecycle governance. Thoughtful programs are turning this pressure into advantage: companies that embed policy automation, bias audits, and plain-language model cards report faster stakeholder buy-in and smoother market approvals, according to Splunk's full-perspective review of governance best practices.

DAMA Edmonton's upcoming events are designed to help you translate these insights into action. **The 11th Annual Data Management Conference—November 12–14** at NAIT's Productivity & Innovation Centre—will feature Canadian case studies on building AI governance offices, measuring ethical ROI, and integrating controls into composable architectures. For hands-on peer exchange, join our **monthly chapter meetings** on the **fourth Thursday of every month at Edmonton Unlimited** on Jasper Ave. Bring your questions, and leave with a roadmap for turning responsible AI into a competitive edge.

## AGENTIC AI: THE RISE OF AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

Agentic AI has vaulted from research labs into boardroom strategy sessions. Deloitte's 2025 Tech Trends flags it as the year's headline technology: self-directed agents that can reason, plan and act on a business's behalf are already automating marketing campaigns, reconciling invoices and even refactoring code bases. Google Cloud echoes the shift, noting that public-sector pilots have leapt from simple chatbots to multi-agent constellations that troubleshoot citizen-service portals in real time. The bottom line? Where last year's "copilots" waited for instructions, 2025's agents set—and pursue—their own goals.

For leaders, the opportunity is two-fold: exponential productivity and entirely new digital business models. Yet those same agents demand fresh guardrails—clear goal alignment, continuous prompt governance and real-time explainability dashboards—if they're to operate inside highly regulated industries. Matillion's latest data-management outlook stresses that companies pairing agentic AI with strong lineage and policy automation report faster cycle times and fewer compliance exceptions, proving that governance and velocity can coexist.

DAMA Edmonton will unpack these practices in depth at the **11th Annual Data Management Conference, November 12-14** at NAIT's Productivity & Innovation Centre, where Canadian case studies on autonomous agents in finance and energy will take centre stage. Can't wait? Bring your questions to our **monthly chapter meetings**—held the **fourth Thursday of every month at Edmonton Unlimited** on Jasper Ave—and learn how to turn agentic AI from headline hype into controlled, measurable value across your data estate.

## PRIVACY-FIRST DATAMANAGEMENT: NAVIGATING GLOBAL REGULATIONS

The privacy clock is ticking louder than ever. Regulators on three continents are tightening the screws on cross-border data transfers and automated decision-making. Europe's Data Act and Japan's amended APPI are dovetailing with Canada's proposed Consumer Privacy Protection Act and Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA), creating a patchwork of rules that demand proof of purpose limitation, algorithmic transparency, and local-processing options for sensitive data. The Cloud Security Alliance's 2025 review of AI-related legal developments calls this "the year privacy becomes the primary design constraint for digital strategy."

Forward-looking Canadian firms are treating that constraint as an innovation catalyst. By embedding privacy-by-design features—tokenized identifiers, differential privacy techniques, and "clean room" architectures—into their composable data stacks, they can feed generative-AI models while holding personally identifiable information safely at the edge. Forbes' latest Gen-AI trends report shows organizations that automate consent management and real-time data deletion outperform peers on both compliance audits and product-launch speed, proving that agility and privacy are no longer at odds.

Wondering how to operationalize these concepts before regulators come knocking? Join us at **DAMA Edmonton's 11th Annual Data Management Conference, November 12–14** at NAIT's Productivity & Innovation Centre, where privacy specialists and legal experts will discuss live data-clean-room deployments and workflows. For an ongoing exchange of tactics, drop in to our **chapter meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month at Edmonton Unlimited on Jasper Ave**. Together we'll turn privacy mandates into competitive advantage—and ensure your data stays both powerful and permissible.

## FROM EXCEL TO COPILOT: HOW M365 GENAI IS CHANGING THE WAY DATA TEAMS WORK

Microsoft 365 Copilot has moved from pilot projects to everyday workflow for thousands of Canadian knowledge workers, weaving generative AI directly into Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and Outlook. A recent U.K. government trial covering 14,500 civil servants found Copilot shaved an average of **26 minutes per day** from routine tasks, with junior analysts saving even more time on spreadsheet clean-up and slide creation. Microsoft's own adoption hub highlights the same pattern: when GenAI is embedded "in the flow of work," teams reclaim cognitive surplus that can be reinvested in higher-value analysis and storytelling. Forrester's Total Economic Impact study quantifies that reclaimed value at **\$36.8 million** over three years for a midsize enterprise, driven largely by faster document drafting, automated data classification, and AI-generated meeting notes that feed directly into backlog trackers. Gartner urges caution, however: without robust permission checks, Copilot can just as quickly surface sensitive data as it can summarize it. Microsoft's Copilot Success Kit recommends a "trust-but-verify" model—testing access controls across SharePoint, OneDrive, and Outlook before broad rollout—and new Copilot Analytics dashboards help data-governance leads monitor usage patterns and oversharing risks in near real time.

If you'd like to hear more about Copilot and learn how to embed governance guardrails without dampening productivity—register for **DAMA Edmonton's 11th Annual Data Management Conference, November 12–14** at NAIT's Productivity & Innovation Centre. Presentations and panel sessions will decode practical adoption paths for finance, energy, and public-sector teams. For an earlier peek and an open Q&A, drop by our **monthly chapter meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month at Edmonton Unlimited** on Jasper Ave. You'll leave with playbooks to turn GenAI buzz into measurable business impact—securely.

## EVOLVING AI GOVERNANCE: FROM SAFETY TO STANDARDS

AI regulation is no longer a theoretical conversation—it's becoming a defining element of enterprise risk and innovation strategy. In a headline-making move this June, the U.S. Department of Commerce rebranded its AI Safety Institute to the Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI), signaling a strategic shift away from high-level ethical discourse toward enforceable operational standards. This pivot reflects growing consensus among governments that responsible AI now demands measurable controls, consistent auditing practices, and integration with national priorities like cybersecurity and economic competitiveness. Canadian regulators and enterprise leaders will undoubtedly take notice, as AI governance becomes a board-level imperative.

International momentum is mixed but unmistakable. In the U.K., AI legislation has been postponed to allow time for broader, more cohesive regulation, while in the U.S., tensions between state-level lawmakers and federal policymakers have intensified. Several U.S. states oppose a proposed federal moratorium on local AI regulations, insisting on their right to legislate AI use based on local risk and market dynamics. This divergence points to a global governance environment in flux—where standardization, transparency, and accountability must be balanced with innovation and jurisdictional autonomy. For Canadian institutions, it's a critical moment to review the implications of the upcoming Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA), part of Bill C-27, and align early with evolving global norms.

DAMA Edmonton offers an essential forum for navigating this complex terrain. Our **11th Annual Data Management Conference**, taking place **November 12–14** at NAIT's Productivity and Innovation Centre, will feature practical sessions on regulatory readiness, AI governance frameworks, and real-world applications in finance and healthcare. For ongoing peer discussion and expert insights, join our **monthly chapter meetings**, held on the **fourth Thursday of each month** at Edmonton Unlimited on Jasper Avenue. These are ideal venues to deepen your understanding and prepare your organization for what's next in AI and data governance.

## COMPOSABLE DATA ARCHITECTURES: FLEXIBILITY AND SCALABILITY



Image source: <https://blog.dataddo.com/why-you-should-adopt-a-composable-data-architecture>

The monolithic warehouse is giving way to composable, API-first ecosystems built from interchangeable services—semantic layers for business context, virtualized data fabrics for zero-copy access, and cloud-native components that can be swapped like Lego bricks. Analysts at BlastX rank composable architecture among 2025’s top enablers of AI-driven personalization, noting that “cloud-native data management is evolving into composable data ecosystems” that deliver real-time insights at scale. Enterprise Knowledge echoes this shift, pointing to a surge in domain-focused strategies and federated governance that let each business unit own data products without duplicating petabytes of information.

The payoff is speed and resilience. Denodo’s latest guidance shows how a logical data fabric—powered by data virtualization—stitches together hybrid and multi-cloud sources for on-demand analytics while slashing data-movement costs. Marketing teams, meanwhile, are using composable customer-data platforms such as SAS Viya plus Snowflake to

activate customer journeys directly from the warehouse, trimming campaign lead-times and governance overhead in one move. Because each microservice is loosely coupled, new AI models, BI tools, or compliance rules can be plugged in without a six-month re-platforming project—an agility advantage that CFOs now measure in double-digit ROI.

Want to see how Canadian firms are pivoting their legacy stacks to composable architectures? Join practitioners and platform vendors at **DAMA Edmonton’s 11th Annual Data Management Conference, November 12–14** at NAIT’s Productivity & Innovation Centre. Or drop into our **monthly chapter meet-ups—the fourth Thursday of every month at Edmonton Unlimited on Jasper Ave**—for discussions on virtualization layer patterns, semantic-layer tooling, and API-first governance playbooks that can accelerate your own modernization journey.

## CLOSING REMARKS AND HOW TO STAY INVOLVED



Image source: <https://www.dama.org/cpages/chapters>

DAMA Edmonton thrives because our members do more than attend—they contribute. Whether you have an hour a month or a day a quarter, there’s a volunteer role that fits: greet guests at chapter meetings, curate speaker ideas, or lend logistical muscle at larger events. Short on time? Forward this newsletter to a colleague or share our LinkedIn posts—every mention multiplies our impact and keeps the conversation on data excellence alive across Alberta.

Your next chance to connect is **Thursday, June 26 (5–7 p.m.) at Edmonton Unlimited, 10107 Jasper Ave.** We’re hosting **Yuliya Fakh, PhD**, Founder of Stealth Mode and Senior Business Partner at Alberta Innovates, for an interactive session: *“What Could Go Wrong? A Practical Workshop on Ethical AI and Data Risk.”* Seats fill quickly, so register today on Eventbrite or at [www.dama-edmonton.org](http://www.dama-edmonton.org) and bring a peer who’s curious about responsible AI.

Finally, circle **November 12–14, 2025** for our **11th Annual Data Management Conference** at NAIT’s Productivity & Innovation Centre (workshops Nov 12 & 15; certification exams Nov 15). Early-bird registration opens soon—reserve your spot to hear thought leaders, earn professional credits, and elevate your organization’s data strategy. **Limited group-discount packages** are available for organizations registering multiple employees, and **passes are transferable** between employees. To secure this offer, email **Bob Hiew** at [bhiew@telus.net](mailto:bhiew@telus.net). Together, through participation and shared expertise, we’ll keep DAMA Edmonton growing—and keep Western Canada at the forefront of trustworthy, value-driven data management.