



Quarterly Newsletter

October 2026

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Welcome to the October 2026 edition of the DAMA Edmonton newsletter. Since our July update, the pace of change across data management has continued to accelerate. AI governance, privacy, security, intelligent agents and modern data architectures are increasingly converging—and creating new opportunities for organizations that can manage data with trust, discipline and imagination.

Thank you to our members, volunteers, speakers and partners for your continued support. Throughout 2026, our goal remains to provide practical learning, thoughtful discussion and meaningful professional connections through monthly chapter meetings, member-informed workshops and networking opportunities.

Our meetings are usually held on the last Thursday of each month from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at Edmonton Unlimited. Upcoming speakers and roundtables will continue exploring the issues shaping today's data profession.

We are also rapidly approaching our **12th Annual Data Management Conference, Powering Health and AI with Trusted Data**, November 5–6 at NAIT's Productivity and Innovation Centre, with workshops November 4 and 7. Minister Nate Glubish will deliver the opening keynote, joined by featured speakers including Shelagh Maloney of Digital Health Canada and Kevin Petrie of BARC.

Workshops will go deeper into context engineering, governance and security, while Bruce Matichuk's full-day session will take participants from generative AI concepts to designing and building an intelligent agent.

We hope you will join us, learn with us and help shape Edmonton's growing data community.

More information is available at www.dama-edmonton.org.

Warm regards,

Peter Guest
President, DAMA Edmonton Chapter

THE AI REGISTER BECOMES A DATA-GOVERNANCE PROBLEM: LESSONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

In September, the Government of Canada published the results of consultations on its AI Register—an inventory designed to make federal use of artificial intelligence more transparent. The feedback revealed an important lesson for every organization adopting AI: you cannot govern AI effectively if you cannot govern the information describing it.

Respondents supported the Register but identified familiar data-management problems: incomplete records, inconsistent terminology, unclear status labels and difficulty searching or comparing systems. They recommended stronger foundations, including a data dictionary, controlled vocabularies, minimum disclosure standards, completeness indicators and scheduled review dates. ([Canada](#))

They also asked for clearer information about risk, human oversight, data sources, model provenance, vendors and where AI sits within decision-making processes. The goal is for the Register to evolve from a simple catalogue into a governance-oriented transparency tool showing not only what AI exists, but how it is used and controlled. ([Canada](#))

For business, the message is powerful. An enterprise AI inventory can connect models and agents with owners, data sources, risks, approvals and lifecycle status. Done well, it becomes a foundation for accountability, regulatory readiness and safer innovation.

Sources: Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, *Consultations on the Government of Canada AI Register: What We Heard*, September 2026; Government of Canada Open Data Portal, *Government of Canada AI Register (Minimum Viable Product)*. ([Canada](#))

DATA GOVERNANCE REACHES THE BOARDROOM: ISO/IEC 38505-1:2026

For years, data governance was often treated as the responsibility of data offices, technology teams and compliance specialists. ISO/IEC 38505-1:2026, *Governance of Data*, published in August, reinforces a much broader view: governing data is part of governing the organization itself.

The new edition provides principles for governing bodies—including directors and executive managers—to oversee the effective, efficient and acceptable use of organizational data. It applies to data that is created, collected, stored, secured, protected or controlled by information systems and explicitly positions data governance within broader organizational and corporate governance. ([ISO](#))

Why does this matter? Data now drives customer experiences, regulatory decisions, analytics and increasingly AI. Poor-quality, poorly protected or poorly understood data can therefore become a business risk just as easily as it can become a business opportunity.

The standard encourages organizations to connect strategic direction with clear accountability, responsible stewardship, appropriate controls and oversight throughout the data lifecycle. ([ISO](#))

For business leaders, the opportunity is significant: when data governance becomes part of enterprise governance, organizations can manage risk while creating greater confidence in analytics, AI and digital transformation.

Sources: ISO, *ISO/IEC 38505-1:2026 — Governance of Data*, August 2026; ISO, *ISO/IEC 38500:2024 — Governance of IT for the Organization*. ([ISO](#))

YOU CANNOT OUTSOURCE ACCOUNTABILITY: CANADA'S NEW PRIVACY GUIDANCE FOR THIRD-PARTY DATA AND AI PROVIDERS

Organizations increasingly depend on cloud platforms, SaaS applications and AI providers to handle information. But outsourcing the technology does not outsource responsibility for the data.

New guidance issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada in September makes that point clear. Under PIPEDA, organizations remain responsible for personal information under their control, including information collected or processed on their behalf by third parties. They must also ensure that providers offer comparable privacy protection. ([Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#))

The guidance recommends looking beyond a vendor's marketing claims. Organizations should understand what information will be used, map where it travels, identify subcontractors, examine anonymization claims and AI training-data sources, assess security and bias risks, and establish responsibilities contractually. Monitoring should continue after implementation through logs, testing and audits. ([Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#))

For businesses, this turns vendor management into an opportunity. Stronger visibility into external data flows can reduce privacy and security risk, improve regulatory readiness and make it easier to adopt cloud and AI services confidently.

The message is simple: your data may leave your systems, but your accountability travels with it.

Sources: Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, *Guidance on Assessing Third-Party Service Providers*, September 10, 2026; *Privacy Commissioner Releases Guidance for Businesses Working with Third-Party Service Providers*, September 10, 2026. (Office of the Privacy

FROM AI EVALUATION TO AI ASSURANCE: NIST'S NEW ARIA EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

A high benchmark score can tell us that an AI model performs well on a test. It cannot tell us everything that happens when that model encounters real people, unexpected situations or deliberate attempts to make it fail.

NIST's new ARIA Evaluation Planning Manual, published September 18, addresses that gap. ARIA—Assessing Risks and Impacts of AI—takes a more holistic approach by combining model testing, red teaming and user testing. Together, these approaches examine not simply whether an AI system produces good answers, but how trustworthy it remains under realistic and challenging conditions. ([NIST](#))

That distinction is increasingly important as organizations deploy generative AI and autonomous agents into customer service, decision support and business processes. Problems may emerge from how people interact with a system, how it responds to unusual inputs or how individual components behave together.

NIST's related TEVV-Athlon framework extends this thinking by providing a customizable approach to Test, Evaluation, Verification and Validation across traditional machine learning, LLMs, multimodal models and agentic systems. ([NIST](#))

For business, better evaluation means better evidence—supporting safer deployment, stronger governance and greater confidence that AI will perform as intended when it matters most.

Sources: NIST, *ARIA Evaluation Planning Manual*, September 18, 2026; NIST, *TEVV-Athlon Framework for Evaluating AI Systems*, August 2026. ([NIST](#))

GOVERNING WHAT AI AGENTS CAN ACTUALLY DO: OWASP'S AGENT CONTROL STANDARD(ACS)

Giving an AI agent an identity answers who is acting. Evaluating it helps determine whether it performs reliably. But another question quickly becomes critical: what is the agent actually allowed to do?

OWASP's new Agent Control Standard (ACS) addresses this challenge as businesses move AI agents from experiments into everyday operations. Released in September, ACS is designed to make agents inspectable, traceable and controllable across cloud, SaaS, on-premises and endpoint environments. Organizations should be able to see what an agent can access, what actions it took and why—and intervene when necessary. ([OWASP Gen AI Security Project](#))

Importantly, ACS proposes standardized control points through which policies can be enforced while agents are operating, rather than relying only on instructions written into prompts. This can help organizations apply principles such as least privilege, restrict access to sensitive information and maintain meaningful audit trails. ([OWASP Gen AI Security Project](#))

For business, stronger controls can make greater AI autonomy possible without sacrificing oversight. Combined with OWASP's broader GenAI security guidance, ACS points toward a future where organizations can confidently give agents useful authority—while still setting clear boundaries around their actions. ([OWASP Gen AI Security Project](#))

Sources: OWASP GenAI Security Project, *Agent Control Standard*, September 2026; *OWASP GenAI LLM Top 10 2026*; *GenAI Security Industry Framework Crosswalk*. ([OWASP Gen AI Security Project](#))

THE OPEN DATA CATALOG AS A GOVERNANCE CONTROL PLANE: APACHE ICEBERG AND APACHE POLARIS

Modern organizations rarely use a single analytics platform. The same data may support dashboards, data science, AI and multiple processing engines—often across different clouds. Connecting all of these systems without creating another maze of proprietary integrations has become a major data-management challenge.

Apache Polaris 1.7, released August 2, offers one approach. Built on the open Apache Iceberg REST protocol, Polaris provides a centralized catalog through which compatible engines can securely read and write Iceberg tables. It supports storage on AWS, Azure and Google Cloud while providing common metadata and role-based access controls. ([Apache Polaris](#))

The bigger story is the open catalog. Iceberg's REST protocol gives different engines a common way to interact with catalogs rather than requiring a separate integration for every combination of technology. It also supports capabilities such as centralized commits and short-lived storage credentials. ([Apache Iceberg](#))

For business, this can make the catalog more than a directory of data. It can become a shared control point for access, metadata and interoperability, helping organizations change technologies more easily while maintaining consistent governance.

As data platforms become increasingly composable, open standards may provide something especially valuable: greater choice without surrendering control.

Sources: Apache Polaris, *Apache Polaris 1.7.0 Documentation*; *Apache Iceberg, REST Catalog Specification*; Apache Polaris, *The Open Catalog for Data and AI Assets*. ([Apache Polaris](#))

CLOSING REMARKS AND HOW TO STAY INVOLVED



The technologies explored in this newsletter—from AI governance to open data architectures—matter most when people come together to share ideas, challenge assumptions and learn from one another. That is where the **DAMA Edmonton community** makes a difference.

There are many ways to participate. Attend a chapter meeting, volunteer at an event, introduce a colleague to DAMA, or simply forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends who may be interested in data, AI and emerging technologies.

Our next chapter meeting is **October 22, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at Edmonton Unlimited, where Joshua Billson from the University of Alberta’s Multimedia Research Centre** will present AI on Satellite & Drone Sensing in Service of Food, Land, and Environment.

On **Nov 3: NAIT and DAMA Edmonton have invited leaders from MNP to present a ½ day FREE workshop** with food for thought and nourishment on **“From AI ambition to action”** - A practical workshop for senior and executive leaders focused on AI readiness, adoption, and organizational outcomes.

Then join us for the **12th Annual DAMA Edmonton Data Management Conference, Powering Health & AI Through Trusted Data**, November 5–6 at NAIT’s Productivity Innovation Centre. Featured speakers include Shelagh Maloney of Digital Health Canada and Kevin Petrie of BARC, with workshops November 4 and 7 exploring topics such as context engineering, AI governance, security, and the evolution of generative and agentic AI through to the practical design, testing and deployment of an AI agent.

Certification exams will also be offered November 7.

Organizations can take advantage of attractive group discounts, and conference passes or badges are transferable, providing greater flexibility for teams. Groups interested in arranging a discounted registration package should contact Bob Hiew at bhiew@telus.net.

Attend, learn, share, volunteer—and bring a colleague. Help us continue building Edmonton’s data community.

More information is available at www.dama-edmonton.org.