
Key Messages and Questions and Answers
Microsoft Power Platform and Low code/No Code Development and Maintenance Policy

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement's Information Technology Division is launching a new service to support the development and maintenance of applications built with Microsoft Power Platform.
- Microsoft Power Platform is a secure, trusted option for building Low Code/No Code solutions, using the same technology as Microsoft 365.
- The Low Code/No Code tools use drag and drop features to build applications, forms and workflows. They allow employees to create applications, automate processes and analyze data without needing advanced coding skills.
- In addition to this new service, a [Low code/No Code Development and Maintenance Policy](#) has been developed to help ministries securely scale automation while ensuring centralized oversight, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act compliance and mitigation of key risks to data, operations and intellectual property.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**Q1 What is the new service being launched by the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement's (SBP) Information Technology Division (ITD)?**

A: ITD is launching a centralized support service for applications built using Microsoft Power Platform, a Low Code/No Code (LC/NC) development platform. This service will help ministries develop and maintain secure, compliant and sustainable Microsoft Power Platform solutions.

Q2 What are LC/NC tools?

A: They allow employees to create applications, automate processes and analyze data without needing advanced coding skills. LC/NC tools enable rapid development and deployment, making them ideal for streamlining processes and improving efficiency.

Q3 Does the Government of Saskatchewan (GOS) support LC/NC tools?

A: Yes. GOS now supports the Microsoft Power Platform, a LC/NC development platform. It is one of many LC/NC tools that are already being used across government.

Q4 What is Microsoft Power Platform?

A: Microsoft Power Platform is a secure LC/NC development platform built on the same trusted technology as Microsoft 365. To learn more about Microsoft Power Platform visit [Microsoft](#).

Q5 Can users access the full suite of applications in Microsoft Power Platform?

A: Users can access Power Applications, Power Automate and Power Business Intelligence.

Q6 Will ministries still manage their own LC/NC applications?

A: Ministries will continue to manage many of their own LC/NC applications. However, ITD will provide centralized support for Microsoft Power Platform applications that are public-facing, cross-ministry, involve sensitive data, are used by external agencies or support critical business processes. ITD support is not limited to this criteria and ministries may opt into having ITD support their application.

Q7 Will ITD only support Microsoft Power Platform applications that meet the above criteria?

A: No. ITD's support is not limited to the above criteria (see question 6). ITD will be monitoring applications in the Power Platform environment and will reach out to clients to migrate applications that require ITD to support, as needed.

Q8 How do you know if you need ITD support for your LC/NC applications?

A: You can assess if your existing applications require ITD support using the [LC/NC Decision Tree](#) available on Taskroom.

Before using the decision tree, you will need to consider who will access information when using the application and how the information is classified. To learn more about classifying information, visit [Taskroom](#). It will also be important to consider if the solution is critical to keep the business process running.

Q9 Why is centralized support necessary for some applications?

A: Centralized support ensures innovation is balanced with oversight to meet government standards for security, compliance and sustainability.

Q10 What is the new LC/NC Development and Maintenance Policy?

A: The [policy](#) provides guidance for securely scaling LC/NC automation across government while ensuring compliance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and mitigating risks to data, operations and intellectual property.

Q11 Who does the policy apply to?

A: The policy applies to all GOS employees, contractors and third parties using LC/NC platforms.

Q12 What development standards must LC/NC applications follow to comply?

A: All LC/NC applications must comply with GOS security, data governance and compliance standards. Users should classify data appropriately and collaborate with ITD to ensure standards are met. To learn more about classifying information visit [Taskroom](#).

Q13 What happens if an application does not comply with the LC/NC policy?

A: If security standards are not met, the security team will be notified and they will contact the creator to discuss risks and options. Non-compliant applications may be reassigned, decommissioned or result in restricted access to LC/NC environments.

Q14 Are there exceptions to the LC/NC policy?

A: Yes. Exceptions include:

- Survey that adhere to data and privacy standards like MS Forms and Alchemer;
- Geospatial Information Systems applications;
- Reporting/analytics tools within enterprise platforms with limited scope;
- Vendor-created Microsoft Power Platform applications as part of Dynamics 365; and
- Compliant SharePoint-based solutions.

Q15 What are the Ministry Engagement Sessions and who can attend?

A: Over the next year, SBP will host engagement sessions with each ministry. Ministry Service Level coordinators and ministry stakeholders will be invited and will receive guidance on implementing the policy and information on how LC/NC tools like Microsoft Power Platform can solve business problems.

Q16 What will be reviewed during these sessions?

A: ITD will review existing ministry applications and identify which ones need to transition to ITD for centralized support.

Q17 What is the Power Platform Working Group?

A: During the ministry engagement sessions, ministries using Microsoft Power Platform will be asked to nominate a representative to join the Power Platform Working Group. The purpose of the group is to collaborate on best practices, share insights and support the strategic use of the platform across government.

Q18 How can I request a solution using Microsoft Power Platform?

A: New requests for Microsoft Power Platform services can be submitted using the Power Platform Service Request in [ServiceNow](#) or by contacting ITD's Business Relationship Management team at itstrategymanagement@gov.sk.ca. Costs may apply.

If Microsoft Power Platform is not a fit, they may suggest alternative applications. Ministries can also contact their ITD [Strategic Portfolio Manager](#) to receive support in determining the next steps for your business problem.

Q19 Is there a cost to access Microsoft Power Platform services?

A: Yes. This is a billable service and costs may apply.

Q20 Who can I contact for more information on the policy?

A: If you have questions on the policy, please contact your ministry [Service Level Coordinator](#).

Q21 Who can I contact for more information on Microsoft Power Platform?

A: For questions on the new service please contact the Power Platform team at SBPITPowerPlatformSupport@gov.sk.ca.