

November 7, 2011

# CODEATHON

Data  
Data Data Data  
Data Data Data Data  
Data Data Hackathon  
Coding Mashup



## A PILOT PROJECT: STUDENT CODEATHON

The Ministry of Education and the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association co-sponsored the first BC student codeathon bringing together a group of students to collaboratively analyze data and to create apps.

In the summer of 2011, the B.C. government launched an open-data website making nearly 2,500 sets of data available to the public. With a greater emphasis upon 'open government' and more accessibility to data, the public is now able to configure, shape and analyze the data in a fashion that reflects a variety of perspectives and needs.

A "codeathon" is an organized event to promote collaboration, critical-thinking, innovation and analysis of open data sources. The facilitated interaction sets the stage for the use of technology for the development of applications that enhance knowledge and communication for others around a particular data set or interest.

On November 7th ten students came together at the BCPVPA offices and, with the support of a few tech and data experts, enthusiastically dug deep into the raw data. Creativity, interests and teamwork were soon evident in the emerging ideas:

- google-mapping of school interiors
- crime rates associated with transit stations (where to avoid)
- transit maps for school access
- one stop source for grade 12 scholarship information

The students were encouraged to share ideas, blog about them and seek additional help from peers to make their ideas or the apps they developed even better.



bcp  vpa

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Codeathon  
Open  
Government  
Hackathon



## So what did they say:

"...was probably one of the most interesting and beneficial conferences I have yet been too.... what I learned in one day at the Student Codeathon, might have taken me days to learn by myself." **Rahim A.**

"...this is all about... equipping students for all of the opportunities that will exist in the 21st Century World" **George Abbott, Minister of Educ.**

"...opened my eyes to a whole new aspect of technology; knowing that it connects not to just computers or mobiles, but to people and that people actually can use this data in their day to day lives.... this will drive me to continue exploring coding..." **Dayah J.**

"I learned that the opportunities.... are endless. However, we must not wait to perfect our project, but to rather start small, share your ideas, blog about them, tweet about them and gain ideas and insights from others." **Som G.**

Have you checked it out?  
[www.bcstudentvoice.com](http://www.bcstudentvoice.com)



Education  
Minister George  
Abbott & student  
coders