



Decision Guardrail Canvas

Separate what AI may recommend, draft, route, or execute from what must remain human-owned.

STRUCTURE - CLARITY - BETTER DECISIONS

Practical architecture for accountable AI-enabled work.

What this template is for

Separate what AI may recommend, draft, route, or execute from what must remain human-owned. Use this guide to make the operating choice explicit, test it with evidence, and record who owns the next decision.

BEST USED WHEN

Customer, sales, finance, HR, or advisory workflows with business risk.

WHO SHOULD BE IN THE ROOM

Include the workflow owner, a person who performs the work, a reviewer with authority to approve or stop it, and the relevant data or tool owner.

CANADIAN CONTEXT

Confirm applicable federal, provincial, territorial, sector, professional, contractual, accessibility, and bilingual-service requirements. Use this workbook as operational preparation, not legal advice.

A five-step working rhythm

01

Scope

What is in and out of scope for decision guardrail canvas?

02

Information

Which approved sources and permissions are required?

03

Authority

Who can review, approve, override, or stop this work?

04

Failure

What happens when evidence, quality, tools, or ownership fail?

05

Proof

What result would justify continuing or expanding?

Build the working record

Complete one record for one workflow. Write enough to support a decision, not a generic technology wish list.

PROMPT	YOUR WORKING NOTES
01 Workflow and purpose	
02 Accountable owner	
03 Required evidence	
04 Scope	
05 Information	
06 Authority	
07 Decision, owner, evidence, and review date	

Keep proposal commitments human-owned

STARTING FRICTION

A proposal assistant can summarize scope, but price, timeline, and contractual promises must remain with the consultant.

WORKFLOW MAP



AI-SUPPORTED ROLE

Draft or recommend within an explicit decision-rights table and surface every proposed action for review. Flag uncertainty around scope.

HUMAN AUTHORITY

The accountable owner approves consequential decisions, external commitments, and exceptions. Resolve the scope question for this case.

PILOT MEASURE

Track approvals, overrides, unauthorized actions prevented, and decisions lacking a named owner. Record scope exceptions separately.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What evidence would the reviewer need to trust, correct, reject, or escalate this output?

Separate reorder advice from purchase authority

STARTING FRICTION

A recommendation may be useful, yet the owner must approve supplier orders and cash commitments.

WORKFLOW MAP



AI-SUPPORTED ROLE

Draft or recommend within an explicit decision-rights table and surface every proposed action for review. Flag uncertainty around information.

HUMAN AUTHORITY

The accountable owner approves consequential decisions, external commitments, and exceptions. Resolve the information question for this case.

PILOT MEASURE

Track approvals, overrides, unauthorized actions prevented, and decisions lacking a named owner. Record information exceptions separately.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What evidence would the reviewer need to trust, correct, reject, or escalate this output?

Keep advice with the professional

STARTING FRICTION

A client brief may organize figures, but financial advice and filing choices require professional judgment.

WORKFLOW MAP



AI-SUPPORTED ROLE

Draft or recommend within an explicit decision-rights table and surface every proposed action for review. Flag uncertainty around authority.

HUMAN AUTHORITY

The accountable owner approves consequential decisions, external commitments, and exceptions. Resolve the authority question for this case.

PILOT MEASURE

Track approvals, overrides, unauthorized actions prevented, and decisions lacking a named owner. Record authority exceptions separately.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

What evidence would the reviewer need to trust, correct, reject, or escalate this output?

Before the pilot grows

Use these prompts to test whether the proposed workflow can operate responsibly in its Canadian business context.

01

Scope

The business purpose and workflow are explicit. Name the owner and the operating decision before selecting a tool.

02

Information

Approved sources and affected people are known. Record the approved sources, permissions, and missing information.

03

Authority

A human owner can review consequential output. Test this boundary with representative and adverse cases.

04

Failure

Failure and fallback paths are practical. Preserve review, escalation, and correction evidence.

05

Proof

The outcome can be measured against a baseline. Set a measurable stop condition and the next review date.

06

Readiness to proceed

The outcome can be measured against a baseline. Record the owner, evidence, next decision, and review date.

CANADIAN REFERENCE POINTS

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada - Privacy and artificial intelligence
priv.gc.ca/en/privacy-topics/technology/artificial-intelligence/

Government of Canada - Artificial Intelligence guidance, principles, and policy
canada.ca/en/services/science/innovation/artificial-intelligence.html

General operational guidance only. Confirm applicable legal, privacy, cybersecurity, professional, contractual, and regulatory requirements with qualified advisors.