



Operating Architecture Canvas

Separate model infrastructure, decision design, implementation scope, governance, and operating cadence.

STRUCTURE - CLARITY - BETTER DECISIONS

Practical architecture for accountable AI-enabled work.

What this template is for

Separate model infrastructure, decision design, implementation scope, governance, and operating cadence. Use this guide to make the operating choice explicit, test it with evidence, and record who owns the next decision.

BEST USED WHEN

Leadership teams deciding where AI should enter operations first.

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 operating architecture 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	

Design an intake-to-brief system

STARTING FRICTION

Discovery information is scattered; a new assistant alone will not fix ownership, source quality, or approval.

WORKFLOW MAP



AI-SUPPORTED ROLE

Map the candidate workflow across model, context, tool, approval, and measurement layers. Flag uncertainty around scope.

HUMAN AUTHORITY

Leadership approves the target operating design and the sequence of implementation. Resolve the scope question for this case.

PILOT MEASURE

Assess unresolved dependencies, handoff delays, review burden, and first-workflow outcomes. Record scope exceptions separately.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

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

Connect sales to ordering

STARTING FRICTION

The owner wants inventory insight, but sales feeds, supplier rules, and purchasing authority sit in separate layers.

WORKFLOW MAP



AI-SUPPORTED ROLE

Map the candidate workflow across model, context, tool, approval, and measurement layers. Flag uncertainty around information.

HUMAN AUTHORITY

Leadership approves the target operating design and the sequence of implementation. Resolve the information question for this case.

PILOT MEASURE

Assess unresolved dependencies, handoff delays, review burden, and first-workflow outcomes. Record information exceptions separately.

DISCUSSION PROMPT

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

Structure client review preparation

STARTING FRICTION

Preparation crosses files, figures, staff review, and client communication; each layer needs a clear boundary.

WORKFLOW MAP



AI-SUPPORTED ROLE

Map the candidate workflow across model, context, tool, approval, and measurement layers. Flag uncertainty around authority.

HUMAN AUTHORITY

Leadership approves the target operating design and the sequence of implementation. Resolve the authority question for this case.

PILOT MEASURE

Assess unresolved dependencies, handoff delays, review burden, and first-workflow outcomes. 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.