



## Ben Rowswell

CO-FOUNDER | President



Ben Rowswell is a pioneer in the use of technology to mobilize citizens in global affairs.

By the time he left his last post as Canada's Ambassador to Venezuela in July 2017, Ben had spent more than twenty years supporting human rights activists around the world. From Egyptians opposing the abuses of the Mubarak regime in the 1990s to Iraqis trying to rebuild democratic institutions amid terrible violence a decade later, to Venezuelans upholding popular sovereignty more recently, Ben has observed the power that mobilized citizens can wield.

During a sabbatical year in the Liberation Technology Program at Stanford University from 2010-11, Ben began exploring opportunities for mobilizing citizens to change the world through digital tools. That year, in his first collaboration with Farhaan Ladhani, he launched Cloud to Street, a venture to connect Egyptian democracy activists with Silicon Valley technologists.

Successive projects with Farhaan have refined their shared knowledge of what citizens need to mobilize and stay mobilized. Those insights led to the formation of Betterplace in 2016, which Ben joined full-time in August 2017.

The activities of Betterplace in no way reflect the positions or the opinions of the Canadian Embassy to Venezuela or the Government of Canada

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