

# ITAC

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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Edmonton • Toronto • Ottawa • Montréal

March 9, 2016

Terry Beech. M.P.  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Department of Science  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Beech:

On behalf of the Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC), I wanted to personally thank you for both your time and attention during our Hill Day on February 23. ITAC intends on being a strong partner and will provide constructive advice on how Canada can move its Digital Agenda forward.

As discussed, the IT skills gap is a reality our sector is facing. We have continually addressed this issue and it is fast becoming business as usual. The IDC study highlighted in our meeting (also attached) identifies that Canada currently has 54,000 unfilled positions due to this skills gap and will grow by 15% by the end of 2016.

In order to ensure that Canadians have the right skills to fill these positions, we need to create a long-term talent strategy. This strategy must include programs like ITAC's Business Technology Management (BTM) program which your colleague Minister Mihychuk funds, and has a proven track record of success. Funding programs such as BTM supports the growth of the knowledge economy all while tackling general and youth unemployment.

The growth of the digital economy does not end with talent; it touches Canadians and the Ministers that represent them in numerous ways. Innovation fuels all sectors, from healthcare to transportation, and environment. Even Government's own modernization and transformation agenda has the power to ignite adoption across the economy.

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Page 2

Further dialogue is needed so we can best explain how to craft the innovation agenda and where government funding could best be spent. At this time we can continue to discuss the areas referenced in our meeting such as leveraging innovation to improve Canadians access to their elected officials along with providing feedback on the areas of Bill C-51 that impacts our sector.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Karna Gupta', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karna Gupta  
President and CEO

*Please find attached the document we created as the Hill Day Leave behind for future reference. Additionally, we have attached all bios for those that participated in Hill Day 2016. At your request we have also included a copy of the Talent report that highlights the ICT skills gap Canada faces. For more information on how ITAC is driving a long-term talent strategy in Canada go to: [ITAC Talent](#)*