

ITAC

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

5090 Explorer Drive
Suite 801
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4T9
Tel: 905-602-8345
Fax: 905-602-8346
www.itac.ca

ACTI

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DE L'INFORMATION

5090, Explorer Drive
Bureau 801
Mississauga (Ontario) L4W 4T9
Tél. : 905-602-8345
Fax : 905-602-8346
www.itac.ca

Edmonton • Toronto • Ottawa • Montréal

March 9, 2016

The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Science
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

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.

Further dialogue is needed so we can best explain what our sector is doing to address the skills gap, fuel interest in the STEMs, all while increasing the number of women and supporting diversity within our industry. At this time we can continue to discuss the areas referenced in our meeting, such as SRED, increasing cooperation and knowledge sharing across those investing in research and development.

Regards,



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](#)