

# ITAC

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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Edmonton • Toronto • Ottawa • Montréal

March 9, 2016

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, M.P.  
Leader of the Opposition  
Conservative Party of Canada  
111 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Ambrose,

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.

The digital economy is the single most important driver of innovation, competitiveness and growth for Canada. Innovation fuels all sectors, from healthcare to transportation, and resource development.

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 department 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, increase diversity, and provide Canadians with highly paid jobs across all sectors.

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As the Leader of the Opposition, we look forward to your leadership in helping to advocate the importance of our sector to the Canadian economy and the pressing need to address the skills gap.

While we appreciate the Liberal government's stated focus on physical infrastructure, we hope that federal funding will also be provided to address the skills gap, expand our digital infrastructure, fuel research and development. This will position Canada as a global leader and employer in the digital economy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karna Gupta', with a horizontal line underneath.

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](#)*