

ITAC

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Edmonton • Toronto • Ottawa • Montréal

March 9, 2016

Celina Caesar-Chavannes, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Caesar-Chavannes,

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 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.

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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As the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, we look forward to your leadership in helping to coordinate these efforts across government. In order to unlock the benefits of the digital economy, we must ensure that the civil service is pulling in the same direction.

While we are eager to work with each of the Ministers involved in driving our country's digital first strategy, we believe the Prime Minister's Office has a strong role to play in harmonizing this approach. We also look forward to continuing our discussion on the benefits ICT can bring to the healthcare sector.

Finally, we would like to invite you to address the 150 ICT senior executives that attend ITAC's Board of Governors. Our industry is eager to hear about the Government's Innovation Agenda and how we can help to achieve the Government's objectives.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in purple 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](#)