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ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DE L'INFORMATION

*ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter*

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## *Still waiting: NAFTA and National Cyber Security Strategy*

### NAFTA

The window for the NAFTA to be completed prior to both the Mexican elections this summer and the Fall U.S. Mid-terms has now closed. Talks are expected to proceed more slowly going forward after Canada's push hit a wall for a so-called "skinny NAFTA" that would leave much of the agreement intact.

At present, negotiators have reached agreement on about nine of 30 chapters for an updated agreement, including the Telecom Chapter. The Digital Trade Chapter is close, however, the Intellectual Property Chapter is still very far apart.

The U.S. had been pushing to get a deal passed, but has had little success with their lack of flexibility on a number of key topics. Meanwhile, U.S. President Trump has floated the idea of pursuing bilateral pacts with the NAFTA partners. Both Canada and Mexico have repeated their commitment to keeping the 1994 trade agreement a trilateral accord.

The renegotiated NAFTA can set a new standard for digital trade that will usher in even further growth and opportunity. We encourage the governments to take the appropriate amount of time to get the agreement right, as there is still a great deal of work to be done.

On May 14, ITAC hosted a "**NAFTA Negotiations: The Noise and the Reality**" webinar – with Laura Dawson, Director of the Canada Institute, Wilson Center, Washington DC. As well, a number of ITAC members attended a May 25 **Digital Economy Roundtable** Chaired by the Hon. Rona Ambrose, member of the Government of Canada's NAFTA Advisory Panel. As always, if you have specific questions concerning the NAFTA negotiations, please contact VP, Policy Nevin French at [nfrench@itac.ca](mailto:nfrench@itac.ca)

### National Cyber Security Strategy

After the February Budget announcement of a new Canadian National Cyber Security Strategy, it was expected that the details of the Strategy were to be announced in March. However, as of early June, no details have been officially released. However, ITAC expects it will be released prior to Parliament's summer break at the end of the month.

ITAC continues to engage directly with Public Safety, including Minister Goodale's office, to determine how our members can best engage and learn about the Strategy once it is released. Information will be shared as soon as it is released. We have invited Public Safety DM Malcom Brown to deliver a technical briefing to the cyber industry once the Strategy is released. We will continue to keep you apprised of any development.