MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Advocacy

Working in partnership with governments of all levels allows ITAC to promote public policy solutions that contribute to innovation and Canada's economic prosperity. Bringing key issues and perspectives of the ICT sector to federal, provincial and municipal decision makers is key to change – and we're making significant headway. Many of ITAC's recommendations were directly addressed by the federal government through Budget 2018 – but we still have work to do. ITAC submitted its Pre-Budget Submission in August with input from many of our members; there are several important areas we hope Budget 2019 will resolve.

This ties into our efforts around promoting the immediate need for a collaborative, modern, national data-driven strategy that will enable Canada to be a global leader. In a report released this summer, ITAC provided considerations for the Government in developing a national strategy, including: Artificial Intelligence (AI); 5G networks; trans-border data flows; quantum computing; digital identities; data ownership; protectionism; and security and privacy. We received considerable positive feedback which stated a desire to work directly with ITAC and its members as part of the federal government's National Consultation on Digital and Data Transformation.

More recently, through the Fall Economic Update, the government responded to our industry's calls to accelerate capital cost allowances (CCA) to support investments in technology and has also set a course to partner with the ICT industry to ensure that the current regulatory environments do not limit Canadians' capacity to innovate in practical applications of technologies. Through the creation of an External Advisory Committee on Regulatory Competitiveness, and a Centre for Regulatory Innovation to act as a focal point for businesses to engage with Government in in "Regulatory Sandboxes" to support innovation.

ITAC also recognizes the importance of and need for a strong cyber plan and engagement opportunities for Canadian industries and individuals. To bring industry and government leaders together to discuss these challenges, ITAC hosted several cyber events and activities across Canada this year, including the *ITAC Saskatchewan Cyber Security Forum*, our first cyber event in Western Canada, the full day *ITAC Cyber Security Technology Summit* in Ottawa, and a presentation by Statistics Canada which presented its *Canadian Survey of Cyber Security and Cybercrime* – the first of its kind in Canada. ITAC will continue to focus on these – and many more – key federal and provincial issues in the New Year.