

# ITAC

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DE L'INFORMATION

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## ITAC advocates for Commercial First Legislation on behalf of its members

Commercial First is a concept tabled by ITAC members based on legislation currently before Congress in the United States, to address the “build in-house” tendency of the Government of Canada (GoC).

As ITAC members have noted:

- There is a deficiency with respect to IT of using the GoC’s purchasing power to support social and economic goals. Examples include slow procurement processes, which limited small and medium-sized enterprise participation;
- GoC officials do not take the long-term costs of maintenance into account when solutioning in-house bespoke solutions, versus using a commercial off-the-shelf or commercially available off-the-shelf solution;
- Many IT professionals who have spent years inside GoC working on bespoke solutions lose the capacity and have outdated skillsets to transfer back into private sector; and
- Many are IT in-house or sole-source contractors whose incentives are to increase complexity and confusion to create an environment where only they can deliver, to extend and renew contracts (i.e. keep the job as long as possible).

ITAC is finalizing an economic impact assessment and will on behalf of its members, engage with both Liberal and Conservative Party leadership to include a Commercial-First legislative approach in the party platforms that allows for economic growth. ITAC will also reach out to the Government Operations and Expenditure Committee (OGGO) to highlight build in-house issues and to seek a Parliamentary response.

Further details will be shared with ITAC members shortly.