



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



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DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DE L'INFORMATION

ITAC Industry Insider Newsletter

September 13, 2019

ITAC makes recommendations to federal ministers regarding Canadian International Trade Tribunal Procurement Policy Regulations

Earlier this month, ITAC sent Ministers Morneau (Finance), Bains (ISED), Carr (International Trade), Qualtrough (PSPC), Murray (TBS) and the Chair of the Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) a letter regarding changes to the CITT Regulations - National Security Exemption.

To our knowledge, without any consultation of industry, the appeal process through the Canadian International Trade Tribunal Procurement Policy Regulations (CITTIR), has been materially changed with respect to the National Security Exemption. The significant change is that the CITT, whereby the government has approved the invocation of the NSE, will dismiss industry complaints.

Our main concern is the Government's recent shift in position, which has the potential to materially affect ITAC members' business and investment decisions, whether firms are Canadian-based or multinationals. In what was described as a 'clarification', the amendments materially change the procurement dispute process that our members accessed for over 25 years. ITAC also pointed out that this approach makes it feel like the Government has taken steps backwards in terms of enabling a successful government modernization and competitive procurement process. These changes also increase costs to our government, limits fair competition, decreases innovation and essentially will undermine ICT investment in Canada.

In this letter, on behalf of the ICT industry, with consultation of many of our members' legal and government relations leaders, we developed a response and request for a meeting with Minister Morneau. We also outlined several important challenges for Canadian Industry players, both here in Canada and beyond, that may impact our industry if this change to the NSE stands.

ITAC will provide updated details on this matter once we hear back; and thanks all those who provided their input.

If you wish to see a copy of this letter, please contact [Andre Leduc](#), Vice President, Government Relations and Policy.