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TECHNATION Policy Working Groups focused on new white papers addressing AI and SMEs

Currently, TECHNATION's policy-driven working groups, the Artificial Intelligence Working Group, the Training Working Group, and the SME Working Group, are focused on developing two new white papers that will include recommendations on improving Canada's ability to scale its small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and adopting artificial intelligence (AI) in the public and private sector.

SMEs and Scale-Ups
This white paper will address Canada's failure to support companies in scaling up to a robust sustainable enterprise, which is essentially holding the entire Canadian technology sector – and economy - back. Large anchor technology firms are crucial to attracting and developing thriving talent; to creating new businesses and supporting technology hubs, but SMEs are the core component of Canada's ICT ecosystem.   To effectively grow and scale Canadian technology SMEs, the Canadian government must adopt a 'Canada First' strategy to ensure Canadian growth opportunities – both government and business - are more accessible to tech scale-ups at all stages. Eliminating red tape, encouraging collaboration, building and maintaining a skilled workforce, and fostering the growth and success of large tech businesses will go a long way to increase the opportunities within Canada to increase opportunities and support the scaling-up of Canada's SMEs into larger sustainable tech firms.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
The AI Working Group is focused on the adoption of AI and machine learning technologies in the public and private sector. It is currently working towards a policy paper which dispels myths about AI, builds a case for why digital transformation is needed in government and industry, and offers a path to adoption.

The paper is in the final review stage and will be published in Spring 2020. TECHNATION plans on hosting events in Ottawa and Toronto to continue the discussion around AI adoption in both the public and private sectors. Details will be shared with members shortly.

Training Working Group
The Training Working Group is in the nascent stages of advocating for re- and upskilling of the federal public service. In conjunction with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, the Working Group is developing advocacy materials to encourage the government to invest in training its workforce on the technologies available today and tomorrow. Details will be shared in the coming months.