

TECHNATION^{CA}

Industry Insider Newsletter

June 30, 2020

Submission to House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology on COVID-19 Pandemic advocates for investing in digital government and responsible use of tech

On June 19, 2020, TECHNATION submitted to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology's study on the Canadian Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our submission advocated for key steps to be taken towards economic recovery through supporting the digital economy, investing in digital government, and ensuring the responsible use of technology.

TECHNATION would like to thank the members of the federal Public Sector Business Committee for participating in the creation of the submission. Through the input of valued members, our submission advocates, in part, for some of the following items:

Digital Economy

- 1) **Invest in data and modern technology, both within and beyond the public sector**, including artificial intelligence/machine learning, smart infrastructure and cities, health tech, connectivity, including 5G, and research and development;
- 2) Support the growth of a **diverse, skilled, and educated workforce** through targeted programs that prioritise digital literacy; and
- 3) Leverage the Government's purchasing power to **support small- and medium-sized enterprises** through agile and flexible procurement and accurate data collection.

Digital Government

- 1) **Invest in secure and agile remote network connectivity** for government organizations, including the continued, rapid adoption of the **public Cloud**;
- 2) Create a culture of lifelong learning in the public service through such programs as the **Learn375 program** which reserves 37.5 paid hours per year for training; and
- 3) Expand the use of **flexible and agile procurement** methods for technology, capitalising on the innovations of the private sector across technological verticals.

Responsible Technology

- 1) Continue to invest in the **development of cyber talent**, through encouraging students to pursue cyber careers and working with the cybersecurity and ICT industry to ensure that cybersecurity education requirements are built into post-secondary curricula where needed;
- 2) Fund **research, development and commercialization of new cyber security technologies**, and develop programming to support the growth of Canada's cyber industry to take advantage of a of a \$100B global cyber economy.

TECHNATION will continue to work with elected leaders from all parties to advocate for measures that support the growth of the technology industry in Canada. We are currently preparing our Pre-

Budget Submission which builds on the above and look forward to consulting with members throughout the process.

For more information, please contact Andrew Walker, Senior Policy Analyst.

