

CANADIAN ICT FEDERATION

The Newfoundland &
Labrador Association of
Technology Industries – (NATI)
www.nati.net

Innovation and Technology
Association of PEI – (ITAP)
www.itap.ca

Digital Nova Scotia
www.digitalnovascotia.com

New Brunswick IT Council
www.nbitc.ca

Quebec Technology Association
www.aqt.ca

Regroupement des
partenaires du gouvernement
en technologie de l'information
(RPGTI) – Québec
www.rpgti.org

Information Technology
Association of Canada
for Ontario
www.itaontario.com

Communitech Technology
Association
Waterloo Region, Ontario
www.communitech.ca

Ottawa Centre for Research
And Innovation - (OCRI)
www.ocri.ca

Information & Communication
Technologies Association
of Manitoba
www.ictam.ca

Saskatchewan Advanced
Technology Association
www.sata.ca

Alberta ICT Council
www.albertaict.ca

BC Technology Industries
Association
www.bctia.org

Secretariat:
Information Technology
Association of Canada
220 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 1120
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9
(613) 238-4822 phone
(613) 238-7967 fax
www.itac.ca



July 9, 2010

Re: Consultation Paper on a Digital Economy Strategy for Canada

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian ICT Federation. As our letterhead shows, the Federation represents national, provincial and regional technology associations from different parts of Canada. They represent nearly 10,000 members.

Federation members are submitting their own responses to the Consultation Paper, but the Federation wishes to emphasize a few key points on behalf of the group as a whole.

First, the Federation strongly supports the need for a national digital economy strategy. We also support increased collaboration between governments on the digital economy strategy.

We agree that the strategy should make Canada a world-leading digital economy in both use and creation.

From the standpoint of growing Canada's ICT industry, the two biggest barriers in the experience of Federation members from all across the country are talent and capital.

On the talent issue, we believe the solution lies in a concerted, collaborative and high-profile promotion campaign. A major communication and promotion campaign will also serve a number of other aspects of the digital economy strategy.

On the capital side, while increased collaboration and other measures to foster the flow of private sector investment (domestic and foreign) will help, it is not possible to resolve the significant shortage of capital without significant added investment. Federation members are aware that our provincial governments have deployed a variety of measures, which vary across the country and address certain needs but not others. We are also aware that the Federal Government has taken action on a number of fronts.

But there remains a significant gap that should be addressed nationally through measures that incent private sector investment and grow the capital pool through matching fund strategies.

Federation members have also expressed a common interest in greater availability of spectrum, since mobile technology and applications are major growth opportunities and spectrum shortages can significantly blunt this growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernard Courtois". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bernard Courtois
President & CEO, ITAC and
Secretariat of the Canadian ICT Federation