

HILL DAY 2022

Accelerating Canada's Technology
Adoption – Lead By Example

Presented By:



TECHNATION^{CA}

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Google Cloud

Canada's technology sector is home to world-leading technologies and innovations that can provide the backbone of a modern, nimble, productive, and efficient public sector; one that is able to deliver on the evolving needs of citizens and provide programs and services that are accessible to Canadians wherever they are, under any circumstances.

Already, the federal government spends at least \$6.8 billion per year to purchase technology, making it the largest technology customer in all of Canada. New, 'generational' investments were promised in the 2020 Speech from the Throne, and the 2022 budget earmarks over \$3 billion in additional departmental IT spending.

This level of spending has the power to move markets, and the way that the government invests this money will have implications for Canada's technology industry.

A strategic approach will ensure that Canada meets its Digital Government targets in a way that drives our economic recovery, supports small and medium businesses hit hard by the pandemic, and creates high quality jobs in the technology sector. It will also ensure that Canada's public sector – and citizens – have access to the best, leading edge technologies, built in your own backyard, and available to deliver services effectively.

RECENT STATS

The Federal Government Spends

\$6.8 billion

Per Year To Purchase
Technology

The 2021 Budget Earmarks Over

\$3 billion

In Additional IT Spending

The Tech Industry Generates

\$230 billion

In Annual Revenue

Source: ISED Canadian ICT Sector Profile 2020

TECHNATION members are challenging the Government of Canada to develop a bolder, more aggressive, and more holistic digital agenda that combines public sector digital transformation, technology enablement, and cyber security, **as part of a bigger strategy** to attract investment, drive economic-growth, and position Canada's economy to grow the jobs of the future.

OUR CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT: TO ACCELERATE CANADA'S TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION – LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

Capture lessons learned from the pandemic:

- The COVID-19 pandemic transformed the way that Canada thinks about procurement. The Government streamlined complex buying processes to access urgently needed - domestic and global- products and services to combat the health crisis. Now is an opportunity to apply that same approach to transform technology procurement.
- The global pandemic transformed the way Canadians live, work, shop, communicate, and access services. In the 'new normal', the federal public sector workplace will never look the same. The Government can and must leverage the tech sector to plan and execute the wholesale transformation of the public sector work environment and public sector service delivery.

Why now?

The need for digital transformation has never been higher for Canadian businesses, organizations, and for public sector services at all levels of Government. For governments especially, the COVID-19 pandemic has served as a catalyst for transformation.

- Public sector workers need access to the digital tools they need to deliver services effectively, and the right skill set to take advantage of rapidly changing technologies, especially in new work-from-home and work environments.
- Canadians expect to, and must be able to, access public services from their homes, computers, and smart phones, wherever they are, and without major delay.
- Businesses must also adapt their workforces, and adjust their business models to enhance their digital and remote offerings and services.

The Federal Government can't be a laggard. It must set the tone and the standard for other levels of government, organizations, and businesses across Canada, when it comes to digital adoption and digital enablement.



OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH SHOULD INCLUDE:

TECHNATION has shown leadership to bring forward real, tangible, and collaborative solutions to achieve these outcomes. Specifically, TECHNATION recommends that the government:

-  **Implement the innovation adoption program** - proposed by TECHNATION; earmarking a significant portion of existing digital government funding for ‘virtual shovel-ready projects’ through next-generation, agile procurement approaches accessible to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
-  **Make the national digital marketplace a fixture of tech procurement** - TECHNATION supported the government at the onset of the pandemic by creating a national registry of technology businesses and technology solutions to help Government – Canada’s Digital Marketplace. After several successful pilots, it is time to think bigger and bolder about a national digital marketplace that supports all public sector technology procurements.
-  **Enhance agile procurement** - Agile procurement remains a relatively new phenomenon in Government, and we must continue to focus on improvements; especially in areas like skills training for procurement officials, enhancing vendor engagement processes, creating more flexibility in project requirements, and reducing the overall administrative burden of today’s procurement process. A “buy-not-build” approach must remain a central fixture of agile procurement modernization.
-  **Embrace meaningful engagement and collaboration with industry** - Shared Services Canada embarked on a journey with TECHNATION this past year to transform the way that it plans, engages with industry, and executes networking procurement – one of the most significant areas of federal IT spending, and a critical foundation for transformation when it comes to digital government. It’s time to apply lessons learned and build on this approach in other major areas of tech spending, like application modernization, workload migration, and cybersecurity modernization.