Who We Are:

TechYukon (formerly the Yukon Information Technology Industry Society) is an organization of Yukon technology companies, with the mission of growing the technology sector in the territory. We currently have 28 member companies, representing some 400 employees.

What the Technology Sector is and Does

- The technology sector is an important component in the Yukon economy in its own right, with a GDP contribution roughly equalling that of tourism.

- It also enables other sectors, such as mining, tourism, and First Nation governments.

- Our companies are innovative, and several of them are engaged in the export of software or hardware products nationally and internationally.

- The sector creates high-paying, year-round jobs, with a high return on investment and no cap on growth.

- We also help government provide services to the public (e.g. the movement to e-government services).

Our History

- The society was originally formed as the Yukon Information Technology Industry Society (YITIS) in the year 2000 in response to drastic budget cutbacks in IT spending by the Yukon government.

- The Liberal government of the day worked cooperatively with the society to reverse those cutbacks and stabilize government investment in the IT envelope.

- This stabilized investment of approximately $6 million annually continued over the past 15 years.

- Over that time, the society worked with the Department of Economic Development to develop an IT Sector Plan and IT Sector Implementation Plan, and to create the Yukon government's Technology and Telecommunications Directorate.

- We also lobbied for and received an increase of $3 million in government investment in its IT envelope spending, along with a buy local policy.

- The government of Yukon has officially listed information technology as a strategic sector.

Our Programs:

- **Advocacy**, by representing the concerns and interests of the sector to government and news media, etc.
- **Ecosystem/Supply Chain Development,** by working with Yukon government to ensure adequate investment levels, and effective procurement policies that serve government needs and enhance the viability of the industry.
- **Networking,** through the hosting of social gatherings and special events which bring together technology practitioners and interested parties from the public and private sectors.

- **Mentoring Start Up Companies,** through programs like our recent Startup Checkpoint event, which helped four local IT entrepreneurs get their product ideas properly vetted and strategized.
- **Infrastructure Development,** by advocating for affordable, reliable ICT service in the territory, and investigating the possibility of a metropolitan fibre network and of an open data server etc.
- **Supply of Employees,** through our Yukon IT Student Scholarship program.
- **First Nations Engagement,** through activities like our recent Yukon First Nations IT Summit, held last April.

Our Partners

- **Department of Economic Development**, through the Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate
- **Yukon Research Centre**, through the Technology Innovation program
- **Yukonstruct Makerspace Society,** through its (co)space shared workspace program
- **Outside technology organizations**, such as British Columbia Technology Industry Association, Canadian Digital Media Network, Lighthouse Labs, the Launch Academy

How the Government Can Help

Government investment in technology sector development is very small compared to its investment in developing the mining and tourism sectors. The following actions are important to our ongoing development.

- **Continued government IT spending to create local jobs** and provide import substitution through a planned and coordinated "supply-chain" approach
- **Create a Build Yukon program similar to Build Canada** along with a favourable intellection property policy to allow locally created software and IP to be exported, as is done in other jurisdictions.
- **Continue funding TechYukon**, the Yukon Research Centre, the Technology and Telecommunications Development Directorate to enable innovation and commercialization eco-system.
- **Invest in local infrastructure development** (metropolitan area network, open data server, etc.) and business mentoring services (start-up mentoring, business acceleration, etc.).
- **Improve the internet** in three ways: affordability, coverage (the communities) and redundancy, leveraging the Department of Economic Development and the Federal government (e.g. Canarie, Industry Canada, etc.).
- **Modify current economic development programs** to better target the production of technology (e.g. software and digital media) to incentivize export similar the film production fund (as many other jurisdictions do).
- **Help raise, or directly contribute to, capital investment** in technology enabled businesses. (British Columbia, for instance, just created a technology venture capital fund.)
- **Support and participate in the IT Sector Plan Steering Committee**, as is mentioned in the IT Sector plan, to develop the IT industry in a coordinated fashion.

What We Believe We Can Do

Yukon may be a small place, but we believe it can make a name for itself in the world of technology, thanks to the active engagement of its government and its culture of innovation.

Contract Us

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