

Opening Remarks for

Fareed Amin

**Deputy Minister of Economic
Development and Trade**

**Information Communication Technology
Executive Roundtable**

May 31, 2007

Sutton Place Hotel

Check Against Delivery

- Good morning.
- I'm very pleased to be here.
- I'd like to thank everyone for coming to our roundtable this morning.
- It's my pleasure to introduce...

[Introduce Minister Papatello, Minister Smitherman and roundtable participants]

- We have divided today's roundtable session into two parts:
- **Part one** will focus on the role of ICT in the broader-healthcare sector.
- Minister Smitherman will open this discussion with his comments on healthcare provision and opportunities for greater involvement from the ICT sector.

- **Part two** of the roundtable will focus on the specific recommendations brought forward by the ICT sector.
- Presentations from Bernard and the working group chairs will be followed by comments from Minister Pupatello.
- This will lead into an open discussion.
- I look forward to your presentations and an engaging and productive event.
- I know Minister Pupatello would like to add her own words of introduction before we continue with the formal agenda.
- Minister...

Word Count = 160 (not including directions)

Opening Remarks for

Sandra Pupatello

**Minister of Economic Development and
Trade**

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- Welcome everyone.

- It's great to see so many familiar faces:
 - Bernard Courtois;
 - Bob Crow;
 - Doug Cooper, and;
 - Garth Isset.

- Thank you for coming today.

- For those of you I haven't met, I look forward to speaking with you about ICT in Ontario.

- Let me start off by saying: **ICT is extremely important to the vitality of this province.**

- Ontario's ICT industry:
 - **Creates high-value jobs;**
 - **Is the main driver of research and development; and**
 - **Positions our province front and centre in the global marketplace.**

- Your industry stimulates a climate of innovation and pushes Ontario to become more globally competitive.

- **We want nothing less than an innovative, globally competitive economy that —**
 - Attracts investment;
 - Supports high-value jobs; and
 - Has the tools and partnerships to transform great ideas into prosperous businesses.

- To do so we must work together to meet the challenges your industry faces.

- **We live in a global marketplace where competition for the best talent and resources is fierce.**

- If we don't stay ahead of the pack, we'll fall behind —

- And have little chance of catching up.

- **That's why it's very important to work together and develop a plan to ensure ICT will drive our province forward in the global marketplace.**

- The easier it is for you to succeed, the more Ontario will prosper.

- Many of you have worked very hard since our last roundtable discussion to develop a set of recommendations which will strengthen ICT in Ontario.

- I've looked over your recommendations and I have to say, you've outlined some very important themes.
 - Innovation and Industrial Strategy;
 - Talent;
 - Productivity; and
 - Procurement

- All are key components that contribute to your industry's success.

- As a government, it's our goal to develop an action plan that will address each of these facets.

- I'd like to thank all of you for all of your hard work over the last couple of months.
- I look forward to hearing your ideas as the roundtable progresses.
- George...

Word Count = 357 (not including directions)

**Follow Up To Recommendation Remarks
for**

Sandra Pupatello

**Minister of Economic Development and
Trade**

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- Thank you Deputy.
- Bernard, Bob, Doug and Garth, thank you for your presentations.
- A little more than two months ago, I issued a friendly challenge at our first ICT roundtable.
- I asked that you develop a set of recommendations we could follow to strengthen your industry.
- You rose to the occasion –
- And after watching your presentations, I'm very excited to move to the next level.
- Your strategy is realistic, relevant and it's a great starting point that will get us out of the gate running.

[Discussion of recommendations]

- I believe we can break down your recommendations into two groups.

- **Group one** comprises recommendations where we can move ahead with a discussion of the next steps required for implementation.
- For example: reaching out to SMEs to promote greater adoption of ICT, and working to enhance the government procurement process.
- **Group two** comprises recommendations where further information from industry or other parts of government will be required to reach a decision.
- Examples in this camp would include expanding the use of apprenticeship tax credits among SMEs and establishing a multi-million dollar pre-procurement pilot fund.
- However, I look forward to discussing all these proposals in greater detail as the roundtable progresses.

[Conclusion]

- Your industry:
 - Employs about 244,000 people provincewide;
 - Invests \$3.5 billion in research and development alone; and
 - Accounts for over \$30 billion of Ontario's GDP.

- These are impressive numbers.

- Numbers that mean greater opportunities for hard working families across the province.

- But it's a global economy and if we rest on our laurels, we'll lose precious ground.

- I recently took a business trip to Japan.

- I can tell you that ICT is the ace up its sleeve.

- From video game production to interactive design, the Japanese embrace innovation and have a palpable

ingenuity for commercializing technology for consumers.

- It's something we need to emulate.
- During my recent business mission to India and Pakistan, I could feel the ICT buzz.
- Innovation is energizing their economies.
- These experiences helped me realize that for us to stay ahead of the pack, we must take our industry's growth to the next level.
- I know we all agree on this point.
- That's why I'm extremely pleased to work with you.
- Together, we can ensure that ICT is one of Ontario's key drivers for years to come.

- I'm confident we'll set in motion a plan that will strengthen your sector and help Ontario become even more innovative, leading edge and competitive.
- Thank you.

Word Count = 450

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Closing Remarks for

Sandra Pupatello

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- First, I'd like to thank you all for your dedication throughout the past couple of months.
- Everyone from the industry, ITAC, and my ministry has worked extremely hard.
- Our discussion was very insightful.
- I appreciate your advice and guidance, and I look forward to continuing our dialogue as we move ahead.
- We've accomplished a lot in a short period of time, and I'm very pleased that we have a strategy in place that addresses some of your industry's key priorities.

[Restate key priorities that are agreed upon]

- **I can't say it enough – Our government is committed to ICT in Ontario.**

- We're committed to:
 - Transforming our relationship into a long lasting partnership;
 - Shifting from a scale of small steps to giant leaps for ICT; and
 - Improving the growth and competitiveness of your sector in the global arena.

- By working together we can create a win-win situation.

- I'm pleased that we're moving in the right direction.

- **As a government, we'll take what we've talked about today and turn it into action.**

- **My ministry will work closely with your industry leaders to ensure our plan takes foothold quickly.**

- **We'll host regular progress updates and provide a final status report in the not-too-distant future.**

- We're laying a solid foundation and I look forward to building on what we've accomplished.

- I encourage you to keep my ministry informed of the global scene, and point out further avenues that will contribute to growth and success.

- Our partnership will continue to grow with every step we take towards meeting our shared agenda.

- As industry leaders, I hope that you:
 - Promote talent;
 - Improve research and innovation;
 - Increase productivity; and
 - Encourage innovation, within your organizations.

- By working together, we can ensure that Ontario remains the ICT pillar of our nation –

- And your companies make their mark on the world stage for years to come.

- Thank you.

Word count = 310 (not including directions)