



David Wattling

Dave Wattling is the Chair of CHITTA and Managing Partner of Courtyard Group in Toronto, ON

Report on Progress

As we enter our second full year of integration with ITAC, the board has reflected on the accomplishments of past and the priorities for the future.

In looking back, the fundamental change we observe relates to comprehensiveness. In our new world, fully aligned with the members of ITAC, we are representing the entire of the Canadian ICT industry and all companies' interests in the healthcare sector. Before we had "pockets" of the industry, some large companies, many smaller ones. Now we interact with many of Canada's largest ICT suppliers, while continuing to serve the interests of entrepreneurial young Canadian firms. This is equally reflected in our board make-up, with an expanded membership that includes representatives from Bell, GE, EDS, TELUS, and the like. This has fundamentally changed the balance of objectives and representation that we are called upon to make.

We have become an effective channel for industry communications with government bodies on the subject of standards, physician office systems requirements and procurement, and to some degree an advocate for increased spending on ICTs in healthcare. From a trade development point of view our popular events at eHealth and HIMSS conferences grow in popularity, serving as informal and fun meeting venues for buyers and vendors to mingle.

As we move forward the board has contemplated the priorities it should focus attention on. In doing this it reminded itself of the importance of its work. In Canada, governments spend up to 50% of their money on healthcare. With trends of increased demand and ever rising costs, healthcare could bankrupt the country. Naturally this would not be allowed to happen, however the risk and threat is real. eHealth technologies, appropriately applied can stem this trend. All the national reports on healthcare renewal acknowledge it, and we have numerous case studies with evidence to support the claims.

However barriers to this are evident in the form of:

- Funding, both capital and operating;
- User education;

- Nationally aligned standards;
- Clinician adoption; and
- The human capacity in our industry to successfully implement.

CHITTA has aligned its efforts in support of removing these barriers. Specifically:

1. We will work with others to advocate for adequate one-time and ongoing operating funds to deploy and sustain ICTs in healthcare. Supporting this would be the development and promotion of case studies that demonstrate the benefits.
2. We will continue our efforts to promote nationally-aligned standards, engaging in the various standards bodies across the country, with a commitment to a consolidated industry perspective.
3. Similarly we will promote a national view on the requirements, standards, and conformance testing of physician office systems.
4. We will continue our trade promotion work, engaging in trade events and missions in countries of interest to our members. We will also develop materials to support a marketing campaign promoting the strength of Canada's Healthcare ICT industry.
5. We will actively support COACH in its human capacity building and certification agenda.
6. Finally, we will continue to strive for effective member involvement and communications.

The board looks forward to stepping up to meet these objectives. However as with any volunteer organization it will be resource challenged. Accordingly we will be soliciting a much a higher level of involvement from individuals from member companies. We will also look to bolster our staff resources, but can only do that with healthy membership fees and event revenues.

Please contact myself or Steven Huesing, our President, if you are interested and willing to help us out.

Thank you, and we look forward to another exciting year.

November 15, 2007

Reception: 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Awards to follow.
The Arcadian Court, 8th floor, 401 Bay Street, Toronto ON

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