



5 TECHNOLOGY

Advancements in technological platforms are creating change in all areas of business and accounting. Among them are: cyber-security, data management, IT risk management, privacy, decision-making and analytics, and the delivery of education programs. Technology is affecting everything CPAs do, including the gathering, processing, managing, and assurance of information.

CPA Canada’s response: transform the profession

CPA Canada and its members must embrace the opportunities created by new technologies and confront the challenges. The organization must also continue to monitor and respond to the ways in which students learn and interact with our offerings.

To ensure our members are equipped for the impact of technological change, CPA Canada is launching an ambitious initiative to systematically identify the skills, attributes, behaviours, and knowledge that our members will need throughout their careers. For example, we are closely monitoring the use of big data and data analytics and will produce auditor guidance and support.

Additionally:

- CPA Canada has a group of subject matter experts who provide thought leadership and guidance on information management and technology issues that affect the accounting profession and business community. The 11 volunteer members of the Information Management and Technology Advisory Committee (IMTAC) include professionals from accounting and IT consulting firms, industry, the public sector, and academia.
- Our ACAF courses give students hands-on experience with accounting, tax preparation, auditing, and advanced spreadsheet software to ensure they will be job-ready once they complete the program.

- We recently released The Canadian Privacy and Data Security Toolkit, Second Edition, which tackles the challenges of collecting and appropriately securing customer information.
- Three information management and technology papers have been issued: Cybersecurity Opportunities for Smaller Accounting Firms, Information Security Insights from and for Canadian Small to Medium Sized Enterprises, and Effective IT Risk Management for Small Business.
- Several tech-related offerings were available at The ONE, the profession’s premier national conference held in September.

