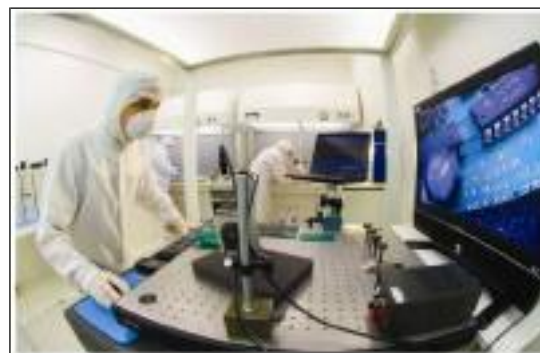# INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Our advanced telecommunication's network allows business to function and communicate globally.

Northern Ontario is home to a diverse cluster of ICT companies, many of which are small and medium sized enterprises, which takes advantage of our state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure, highly skilled workforce and lower operating costs to service a global market.

The region continues to offer affordable real estate, less expensive labour and telecommunications costs. Businesses recognize the high-tech capabilities, abundant energy and natural resources, proactive government, modern infrastructure and leading edge educational facilities.

Multiple communications companies utilize fibre optic, cable and satellite to provide complete coverage of broadband, VoIP, and cellular service throughout the north.

Our advanced telecommunications network allows business to function and communicate globally, enabling video, teleconferencing, distance education for workforce skill development, and many other applications. It has also enabled us to further our capabilities in other sectors such as health sciences through tele-robotic assisted surgery, tele-stroke technology and diagnostic software. Northern companies are actively engaged in developing digital media products including lottery and gaming.

Northern Ontario has a strong base of software development firms supporting international clients in a variety of sectors. Major telecommunications manufacturers have established service centres in Northern Ontario which allows them to provide two hour on-site response to equipment problems, rated among the highest level of support anywhere in the world.

ICT has been identified as a key growth sector for Northern Ontario with a significant number of investment opportunities. Our existing firms are enhancing their current offerings and / or expanding into markets including digital media, animation / graphics, film, gaming, wireless, new media, communications devices, green IT and next generation contact management centres focusing primarily on back office shared /service opportunities.

This growing sector is supported by a network of recognized post-secondary institutions offering world class curriculum. Post-secondary programming prepares our workforce for the following types of occupational opportunities found throughout Northern Ontario.

- Software and Hardware Engineers
- It Consultants
- Network Administrators
- Database Administrators
- Software Developers
- Computer Communications Specialists
- Research Analysts
- System and Security Administrators
- Computer Engineers
- Robotics
- Multimedia
- Web Designers

We are home to many industry associations dedicated to enhancing our ICT capacity including two regional Innovation Centres that support the growth of small and medium sized businesses with programming, funding and facility support.