


Articles at a glance

- The Office of Learning Technologies proposal to build capacity in HI for professionals in health settings through a flexible MSc program by the Universities of British Columbia, Victoria, Alberta and Calgary.
- The Canadian Network for the Advancement of Research, Industry and Education (CANARIE) e-learning proposal to build a pan-Canadian HI Collaboratory with learning resources and tools through the BC Institute of Technology, HEALNet, COACH, the Canadian Health Records Association (CHRA), the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, George Brown College, and the Universities of Victoria, Alberta, Calgary, Western Ontario, Sherbrooke, Memorial, Dalhousie and Waterloo.
- The Canadian Institutes for Health Research PhD/post-doc training program in HI through the Universities of Victoria, Calgary, McMaster, McGill, Waterloo, Dalhousie and Sherbrooke.

We do not expect all of these initiatives will be funded, but the application process has brought these organizations together in a way that has never been done before. The group is now working toward a formal consortium in order to establish a national forum to address HI education and training issues for Canada.

For health organizations, professional associations, government ministries, funding agencies and the private sector wishing to be involved with this emerging consortium, the first step is to get involved by participating in one or more of the initiatives that have been described. For instance, you could help identify the types of HI expertise, knowledge and skills that are needed, the roles that your organization can play in the consortium, and the specific resources you can contribute to move the agenda forward. As learners, you can determine what type and level of HI education you need, contact one of the consortium members to express your interest, and actively take part in the various HI programs and courses as they become available. The only way we can build capacity in health informatics for professionals in health is to work together to raise the awareness among health organizations, professional associations, educational institutions, government ministries, funding agencies and the private sector of this urgent need to advance HI education and training in Canada. 

① Making the most of uncertainty

Shape or adapt? For years, executives have regarded the question as perhaps their most fundamental strategic choice. Is it better to try to influence, or even determine, the outcome of crucial elements of an industry's structure and conduct? Or is the wiser course to scope out defensible positions? As globalization, digitization, and unfettered capital markets raise levels of uncertainty and rewrite definitions of opportunities and risks, this basic strategic choice has morphed into a more complex high-stakes problem.

The take-away

There is no one-size-fits-all answer for all companies in all situations. But by more thoroughly thinking through the level and nature of the residual uncertainty facing decision-makers, strategists can define feasible alternatives and make better-informed choices to shape or adapt.

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② E-Commerce Legislative Initiatives in Canada: Implications for Healthcare Institutions

Mary Caldbick

In Canada, healthcare e-commerce also appears to be poised to undergo a period of rapid expansion, which will undoubtedly be promoted by federal, provincial and territorial initiatives aimed at creating a legal infrastructure to facilitate e-commerce transactions. This article examines the key features of legislation currently in place or in the process of being adopted across Canada, and its implications for healthcare e-commerce in this country.

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