

Labour shortage could cripple Canada's tech industry: report

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Canada's technology companies will soon face a shortage of workers that could cripple the sector and deal a harsh blow to the Canadian economy, according to a report published by a coalition of industry professionals.

More than 90,000 jobs in the information technology sector will need to be filled in the next three to five years and could potentially impact the Canadian economy to the tune of \$10.6-billion, said Conference Board of Canada vice-president of organizational effectiveness, Dr. Michael Bloom.

"The problem is much bigger than any of us at the Conference Board has identified," said Mr. Bloom.

A "perfect storm" of socio-demographic factors, negative perceptions of the tech sector following the bubble burst of 2002 and a significant drop in university enrolment in IT programs across Canada has all come together to create this dire scenario, said Mr. Bloom.

