



## CCSE Closing Remarks for the Cyber Protection Forum

### Protecting Cyber Space: A Collaborative Effort

3:00–3:15 p.m., January 20, 2005 (Ottawa Congress Centre)

- 1) Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and guests ...
  - a) It's my pleasure to say a few words here, at the closing of this impressive event.
  - b) As you know, my Deputy Chief of IT Security, Mike Devaney, opened the Cyber Protection Forum on Tuesday morning, as I was travelling outside the country on business.
  - c) However, I have been able to be here for a few of the sessions and my sense is that there is a lot of good information being exchanged and a lot of discussion happening around some very serious issues.
- 2) For CSE's Information Technology Security program, the National Security Policy was an important watershed in terms of repositioning us and focussing our efforts on our ability to predict, prevent and respond to cyber attacks and incidents.
  - a) We received some additional funding in the budget allocations that followed, enabling us to advance our cyber security mission — and we're very committed to making this happen.
- 3) **On Tuesday ...**
  - a) ... you heard Rob Wright, the National Security Advisor, talk about the National Security Policy and about the integrated security system the Government of Canada is building.
    - i) You might already be aware that I report to Rob Wright and I can tell you that he's very much in an "implementation" frame of mind ... and I'll be accountable to him for meeting CSE's commitments under the NSP.

- b) On Tuesday, you also heard from Helen McDonald, Acting CIO at the Treasury Board Secretariat, who talked about the highlights of the Secretariat's direction on IT security.
- c) Simon Gauthier, Deputy Chief Information Officer at the Treasury Board, then led a panel discussion on the collaboration that's needed between business decision-makers and IT security practitioners.
- d) The day closed with an overview from PSEPC of the Government Operations Centre and the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre.
- e) I hope that one of the key messages you took away with you on Day One of the Forum was how very serious the Government of Canada is about making collaboration and integration the cornerstones of its cyber security efforts.

**4) On Wednesday ...**

- a) One of the highlights was Margaret Bloodworth's speech on PSEPC's integrated approach to public safety.
  - i) I attended this session and .....
- b) The integration message was continued with John McLaughlan's presentation on the Integrated Threat Assessment Centre and with other presentations on the issue interoperability.
- c) Improving our ability to assess the threats that are out there is crucial, as is ensuring that all the departments and agencies partnering in implementing the NSP have the means to exchange essential information during a crisis.

**5) Today ...**

- a) Michael Turner spoke about PWGSC's commitment to providing a Common and Shared Services environment and about the importance of IT Security in that environment.
- b) We also heard that provincial governments are grappling with the same issues as we are and also recognize the importance of IT security as a foundation for providing cost-effective e-services.

- c) We also heard about the RCMP's cyber crime strategy, and about biometrics and trusted identity management, as well as about the IT Security and Service Assurance Leadership Initiative and the importance of professionalizing the IT Security community.
    - i) There are important advances being made throughout the community that bode well for the whole field of cyber-security and cyber-defence.
  - d) Throughout these three days, we have heard how everyone is "stepping up to the plate" to advance Canada's cyber security posture.
- 6) We opened this event outlining our goals for it ...
- a) ... sharing the latest information on cyber protection, facilitating discussions of the challenges facing us all in the global cyber environment and, most importantly, forging new partnerships.
  - b) It is only through **greater collaboration and integration** in cyber security initiatives and greater communication between business and technical decision-makers that we will succeed in safeguarding Canada's critical information systems and infrastructure.
  - c) I hope you'll agree that we've achieved these goals and that we've helped generate a clearer shared understanding of the business context for cyber security.
- 7) Of course, before we set out our next steps for maintaining this kind of open exchange, we'll want to hear from you.
- a) We're also committed to improving security awareness in the Government of Canada ... for us to be effective, we also need to listen to partners and stakeholders like you in order to ensure that we're covering the right bases.
- 8) Obviously, the challenges ahead are significant — without everyone putting the right priority on the right issues, and without the right levels of collaboration and energy, our computer networks and critical infrastructure are vulnerable to cyber-attacks that could have severe consequences not only for the government but for all Canadians.

- a) As a lead agency in cyber-protection, CSE has renewed its commitment to adopt a results-oriented, client-focused, risk-management approach to cyber protection through its IT Security Business Renewal strategy.
- 9)** This new Cyber Protection Forum is one of the ways in which we're fulfilling this renewed commitment, inspired by our awareness of the need for greater collaboration among the various players concerned with cyber security issues for the Government of Canada.
- a) Given the stellar slate of presenters featured over the past three days, and given that attendance has surpassed even our most optimistic projections, I believe we have taken a very successful first step towards making that collaboration happen.
  - b) Working together, we have a lot to accomplish to ensure that Canada's critical infrastructure is protected.
- 10)** To close the Cyber Protection Forum, I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped make this event a resounding success:
- a) First, I would like to thank all of you, the delegates — we hope you have found the event to be useful, informative, and thought-provoking. By letting us know about issues and challenges that most interest you, you're helping us to build an IT Security program that reflects your needs.
  - b) Thanks also to the many vendors who participated in our Trade Show, showcasing the leading edge in IT Security.
  - c) We're also very grateful to our partners at TBS, PSEPC and PWGSC for their collaboration in hosting the Cyber Protection Forum and to our many speakers, who are critical contributors in terms of the "intellectual capital" being invested in advancing cyber-protection in Canada.
  - d) Finally, to the organizers who made this event a reality — my thanks to all of you for making these three days such a success.