

For Immediate Release
November 9, 1999

"Individuals and leaders in the information and communications technology sector have told us they can't believe a government is doing something like this. We are truly breaking new ground by consulting with some of the best people in the world, and showing a serious commitment to ensuring Alberta will prosper in the new millennium."

Premier Ralph Klein

Global technology leaders

celebrate Alberta roots by advising province on becoming a world leader in ICT

EDMONTON Some of the world's most influential technology leaders and decision-makers are returning to their Alberta roots to help the province become a global leader in the information and communications technology (ICT) field.

Premier Ralph Klein announced November 9 the creation of a Premier's External Advisory Committee on ICT that will provide high level, global advice on the implementation of the province's ICT strategy.

The committee, believed to be the only one of its kind in North America, is made up of leaders of some of the world's leading technology companies and a Nobel Laureate in Physics, all of whom have strong ties to or roots in Alberta.

The individuals who have agreed to serve on the Premier's External Advisory Committee on ICT include:

- Dr. James Gosling, Senior Vice-President of Sun Microsystems (Woodside, California), co-founder of Java, and a former Calgarian and alumni of the University of Calgary
- Mr. John Roth, President and CEO of Nortel Networks (Brampton, Ontario), originally from Lethbridge
- Mr. Fares Salloum, Senior Vice-President, International Operations for GTE Service Corporation (Irving, Texas), and an alumni of the University of Alberta
- Dr. Jozef Straus, President and CEO of JDS Uniphase (Nepean, Ontario), and an alumni of the University of Alberta
- Dr. Richard Taylor, Nobel Laureate in Physics, and Professor at Stanford University (Stanford, California), originally from the Medicine Hat area

The committee will be chaired by Klein, and will also include Minister of Innovation and Science Dr. Lorne Taylor, who is responsible for the overall implementation of the ICT strategy.

"We are finding more and more that economic diversification will be the key to Alberta's continued success in the new millennium and that includes building a strong and vibrant ICT sector for Alberta," Klein said. "I am extremely pleased these individuals are proud of their Alberta roots and are lending their valuable time and considerable talents to ensure Alberta is successful in this area."

The Premier's External Advisory Committee on ICT will meet up to twice a year, and will provide advice on research, training, policies and global trends to the Premier, and the private-public sector committees working on the ICT Strategy.

For more information, contact:

Fay Orr - Director - Communications, Office of the Premier - (780) 422-4905

Val Mellesmoen - Director - Communications, Innovation and Science - (780) 915-2443

Backgrounder

Premiers External Advisory Committee on Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

What is the role of the Premiers External Advisory Committee on ICT?

The Premiers External Advisory Committee on ICT provides strategic advice and recommendations to the Premier on developing the ICT sector in Alberta and leveraging the ICT sector to further the provinces economic growth.

This could include acting as a sounding board or strategic advisor on unique ideas or major initiatives coming from the provincial ICT Advisory Committee and related sub-committees, or suggesting and facilitating possible business development opportunities for linkages or alliances between global organizations and Alberta-based organizations. These ideas or initiatives will be primarily related to the four ICT priority areas of education, infrastructure, research and development, and business growth.

Based on its global perspective and awareness of long-term trends and drivers in the knowledge-based economy, the committee provides an external, global perspective that complements the local and regional perspective of the ICT implementation committees.

How does the Premiers External Advisory Committee on ICT relate to the provinces overall strategy to build the information and communications technology sector?

The Government of Alberta is committed to creating a globally competitive ICT sector. In the Alberta Science and Research Authoritys 1998 report, *Information and Communications Technology: A Strategy for Alberta*, action was recommended in four key areas:

- Invest in education
- Develop an ICT infrastructure in the province
- Grow investment in research and development
- Grow ICT business in the province

The key role of the Premiers Committee is to provide a global perspective on the ICT industry, along with strategic advice on ICT and Albertas future economic development.

How were members of the committee chosen?

Committee members were chosen on the basis of their Alberta roots and the global scale of their accomplishments in the information and communications technology field. Each member has individually made a significant contribution to the ICT sector, and is committed to providing Alberta with a global perspective as it becomes a key player in the global ICT industry.

How will the Premiers External Advisory Committee on ICT benefit Albertans?

The Premiers External Advisory Committee on ICT will provide the Premier with a global perspective on how to position the province so that Albertans can benefit from the rapid changes in the information and communications technology industries. It will develop and shape a vision for ICT research and development in Alberta and assist the Premier in prioritizing policies and programs to maximize benefits from leveraging limited resources.

Biographies

Dr. James Gosling
Chief Scientist, Java Software

Vice President and Fellow, Sun Microsystems, Inc.

James Gosling received a BSc in Computer Science from the University of Calgary, Canada in 1977. He received a PhD in Computer Science from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1983. The title of his thesis was "The Algebraic Manipulation of Constraints." He is currently a Vice President and Fellow at Sun Microsystems. He has built satellite data acquisition systems, a multiprocessor version of Unix, several compilers, mail systems and window managers. He has also built a WYSIWYG text editor, a constraint based drawing editor and a text editor called 'Emacs' for Unix systems. At Sun his early activity was as lead engineer of the NeWS window system. He did the original design of the Java programming language and implemented its original compiler and virtual machine.

Mr. John A. Roth
President and Chief Executive Officer, Nortel Networks Corporation

John Roth is President and Chief Executive Officer of Nortel Networks Corporation. He is also a member of the corporations board of directors. Since joining Nortel in 1969 as a design engineer, Mr. Roth has held a wide range of management and executive positions within the corporation and its subsidiaries, including: division general manager, station apparatus division for Canada; vice-president, operations manufacturing; and executive vice-president. He was president, Bell-Northern Research Ltd. (BNR). Mr. Roth was instrumental in establishing Nortels wireless business, serving as the first president of the Wireless Network organization. Between 1993-95, Mr. Roth was president of Nortels North American operations.

Mr. Roth was named the corporations chief operating officer in 1995. He was elected to the Northern Telecom Limited board of directors in 1996. In February, 1997, he was named president of the corporation, in addition to continuing to serve as chief operating officer. In October, 1997, Mr. Roth became president and chief executive officer of Northern Telecom.

Mr. Roth has been named chair of the Premier of Ontario's Industry Advisory Board for the Access to Opportunities Program (ATOP). He previously served on the Canadian Prime Minister's Industry Advisory Board on Science and Technology. In 1998, Mr. Roth received the Emerging Markets CEO of the Year Award. He is a member of the Business Council on National Issues' (BCNI) policy committee. Mr. Roth holds a bachelor of engineering in electrical engineering and a master of engineering from McGill University.

Mr. Fares F. Salloum
Senior Vice President - International Operations, GTE Corporation

Fares F. Salloum was named Senior Vice President - International Operations for GTE in June 1997. He is responsible for the operations of BCT.Telus and Quebec-Telephone in Canada; CODETEL in the Dominican Republic; CANTV in Venezuela; CTI in Argentina; Micronesia Tel in Saipan; GTE China paging operations, headquartered in Guangzhou; and the business development office in Beijing. The Operations Support organization, based in Irving, Texas also reports to him.

Salloum's career includes 24 years with BC Telecom, one of two GTE telephone operations in Canada.

Since 1995, he served as executive vice president - Communication Services for BC Telecom, Inc., with responsibility for sales, personal communications, local and field services, long-distance services, data and integrated network services, communications systems, interactive multimedia services and systems support. Previously, Salloum was president and director of BC Tel Services and vice president - Emerging Businesses for BC Telecom from 1993 to 1995. He also served as vice president - Emerging Business for BC Telecom from 1991 to 1993.

Salloum serves on the boards of directors of BCT.Telus, CTI, Pacific Cellular Communications, VenWorld, CANTV and GTE China. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Alberta and an MBA from the University of British Columbia. He and his family live in the Dallas area.

Dr. Jozef Straus
Co-chairman, President & Chief Operating Officer
JDS Uniphase Corp.

Jozef Straus, Ph.D., is Co-chairman, President and Chief Operating Officer of JDS Uniphase Corporation. JDS Uniphase Corp. was formed in July 1999, by the merger of Nepean-based, JDS FITEL Inc. and Uniphase Corporation based in San Jose. Dr. Straus co-founded JDS FITEL in 1981 and served as Chief Executive Officer and President of the company September 1993. Dr. Straus served as a director of the company since 1981 and held various positions with the company, including Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, from 1990 until 1993. Prior to 1981, Dr. Straus held various research and management positions related to fiber optic technology at Bell-Northern Research Ltd. and Nortel. Dr. Straus has numerous patents, publications and invited presentations to his credit.

Dr. Straus was educated in the Czech Republic at the Czech Technical University in Prague. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1974.

Dr. Richard Taylor
Nobel Laureate, Physics
Professor, Stanford University

Dr. Richard Taylor was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and educated at the University of Alberta. He moved to Stanford University in California, where he joined the High Energy Physics Laboratory. From 1958 to 1961 he worked in Paris, France on an accelerator under construction at Orsay. On his return to the United States he worked at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California for a year and then moved back to Stanford.

Dr. Taylor spent the next two decades working on various electron scattering experiments, with periods at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland, and DESY, the German accelerator laboratory in Hamburg. In 1982 he became Associate Director for Research at Stanford, a post he held until 1986 when he resigned to return to research. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics 1990.

Additional information on the Premiers External Advisory Committee on ICT and photos of the members is available on-line at www.innovation.gov.ab.ca

For more information, contact:

Val Mellesmoen - Director - Communications, Innovation and Science - (780) 915-2443

Alberta Index | Dept Index | Innovation and Science Home Page | News Releases [|Top of Page](#)

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Return to [Government Home Page](#)