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Douglas Mann, Secretariat, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory *, 901 D Street, SW., Suite 900, Washington, DC, 20024-2115,
United States of America

Telephone: +1 703 575 2114; Facsimile; +1 703 671 9180; E-mail: MannD@battelle.org

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Canada is pleased once again to come to SC32 with a strong delegation covering all the working groups. This speaks to Canada's belief in the relevance and importance of all work undertaken in SC32.

One major user that our delegation represents, the Canadian Government, has begun an initiative to make all government services available online in a secure and reliable fashion. This federal infrastructure initiative will rely heavily on standards developed in SC32, as well as the interaction of these with other standards and public specifications such as the X.509 work begun in our predecessor SC21. It is imperative that these standardization efforts be undertaken in a coordinated architectural framework to allow the evolution of our Canadian initiatives.

Canada has also noted the recent JTC1 efforts which are attempting to "adopt a simplified structure to improve the timeliness of development and approval of IT standards". Canada voted against these proposals in JTC1 because we believe that continued re-engineering of JTC1 will create confusion and upheaval for the successful projects, such as SQL. On this note we encourage SC32 not to disrupt its successful projects by 'volunteering' for a questionable trial re-organization.

We are also pleased to "almost" confirm our invitation to host the next SC32 meeting in Victoria, BC (www.city.victoria.bc.ca) from 15th to 26th October, 2001. We have tentatively booked the Ocean Pointe Resort hotel (www.oprhotel.com) and we are certain that the delegates will enjoy the Victoria venue. In order to obtain final confirmation of our invitation from the Standards Council of Canada, our last remaining task is to produce a funded budget. This requires two things from SC32:

1. finalized meeting room requirements, and
2. confirmation that SC32 would support a meeting fee of up to Cdn\$250 (only if necessary; we hope to obtain sufficient sponsors to minimize or eliminate any meeting fee).

Finally, I would like to thank our Helsinki hosts for arranging such excellent weather ... most of our warm clothes are still in our suitcases.

Thank you.