

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2022 Federal Budget

List of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: That the government continue to recognize that resilient infrastructure that delivers non-emitting electricity to energy users is the single most critical factor for our future economic competitiveness on the path to net-zero emissions. A changing climate will require "resilience" to be more robust than before.

Recommendation 2: That the government continue to work with provinces, territories, industry and other stakeholders to ensure that Canada is an attractive and competitive jurisdiction for investment in infrastructure that enables the increased use of clean electricity throughout the Canadian economy, including: (a) the efficient transmission, distribution and management of clean electricity within the electricity grid; (b) fuel-switching from fossil fuels to non-emitting electricity (i.e. "electrification"); and (c) the conversion of electricity into other energy carriers or industrial process inputs (e.g. hydrogen produced by electrolysis).

Recommendation 3: That the government continue to support strategies for workforce planning in the electricity sector including new education pathways, and the upskilling and reskilling of current workers to help meet its objective to create over one million jobs, restoring employment for Canadians to pre-pandemic levels.

Hon. Wayne Easter,

Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Transmitted electronically to: FINA@parl.gc.ca

21 July, 2021

Dear Mr Easter,

RE: Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2022 Federal Budget

Electricity Alliance Canada is a coalition of the leaders of Canada's electricity sector.¹ Our alliance's mandate is to enable, promote, and advocate for the removal of barriers to the increased use of clean electricity throughout the Canadian economy, in collaboration with energy users, to further Canada's net-zero emissions target, supported by workforce planning and broader education. We appreciate this opportunity to present the critical priorities for investment in electricity infrastructure to move toward our future net-zero economy. As a first step, urgent actions across our economy are needed to achieve 40 – 45% greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030. The electricity sector can lead the way.

The Strengthened Climate Plan (SCP) states that: *“Canada proposes to achieve a net-zero emissions grid before 2050, and to expand clean electricity supply to ensure electricity generation increasingly transitions towards non-emitting sources. Under a scenario with significant electrification in all economic sectors (i.e. doubling of today's percentage of final energy use from electricity), by 2050 Canada will need to produce up to*

¹ The Canadian Electricity Association, Canadian Nuclear Association, Canadian Renewable Energy Association, Electricity Human Resources Canada, Marine Renewables Canada, and WaterPower Canada.

two to three times as much non-emitting power as it does right now. Moving forward, emphasis will be placed on ensuring that Canada is prepared for the accelerated electrification of key sectors and can meet this projected increased demand with new sources of non-emitting electricity.”²

The electricity sectors that we represent believe that these objectives established in the SCP should be reflected in Budget 2022. We recommend:

Recommendation 1: That the government continue to recognize that resilient infrastructure that delivers non-emitting electricity to energy users is the single most critical factor for our future economic competitiveness, on the path to net-zero emissions. A changing climate will require "resilience" to be more robust than before.

Recommendation 2: That the government continue to work with provinces, territories, industry and other stakeholders to ensure that Canada is an attractive and competitive jurisdiction for investment in infrastructure that enables the increased use of clean electricity throughout the Canadian economy, including: (a) the efficient transmission, distribution and management of clean electricity within the electricity grid; (b) fuel-switching from fossil fuels to non-emitting electricity (i.e. "electrification"); and (c) the conversion of electricity into other energy carriers or industrial process inputs (e.g. hydrogen produced by electrolysis).

Recommendation 3: That the government continue to support strategies for workforce planning in the electricity sector including new education pathways, and the upskilling and reskilling of current workers to help meet its objective to create over one million jobs, restoring employment for Canadians to pre-pandemic levels.

² Government of Canada (2021) "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, Clean Electricity Annex"

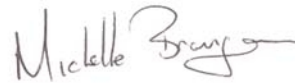
A number of our associations will also be submitting sector-specific responses to this consultation.

We all would welcome the opportunity to provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,



Francis Bradley
President and CEO,
Canadian Electricity Association



Michelle Branigan
President and CEO,
Electricity Human Resources Canada



John Gorman
President and CEO,
Canadian Nuclear Association



Elisa Obermann
Executive Director,
Marine Renewables Canada



Robert Hornung
President and CEO,
Canadian Renewable Energy Association



Patrick Bateman
Interim President,
WaterPower Canada

CC:

Alexandre Roger, Clerk of the Standing Committee on Finance