

Joint Letter: Building Canada with Renewable Electricity

July 3, 2025

Letter addressed to:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Tim Hodgson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry
The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue
The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Dear Prime Minister, Ministers

We write to you to urge you to prioritize funding for electricity transmission, renewable electricity, Indigenous and community ownership, and energy efficiency as key projects in the national interest.

Building out Canada's east-west electricity grid as part of a nation-building project with provinces, territories, Indigenous rights-holders and other stakeholders was a [key commitment of your party in election 2025](#). This is a strategic, timely effort that should be identified as a top priority. It is worthy of significant federal resources to invest in affordable, secure, renewable power that supports Canada's energy security. This project can bring significant jobs, health, affordability and national security benefits to communities and businesses throughout Canada.

Canada's electricity needs are projected to [double or even triple](#) before 2050, thanks to increasing electrification of industry, transportation and heating. Upgrading Canada's east-west transmission grids has been the topic of study by the [federal government](#), [interregional planning bodies](#), [expert advisory councils](#) and leading [energy modelling initiatives](#) for over a decade in Canada, and enjoys broad support from [business](#), [labour](#), [Indigenous](#) and [environment](#) groups.

Improving the flow of electricity via new or upgraded transmission connections between provinces has been shown many times to save ratepayers money and increase system reliability. It's also a foundational requirement for the clean electrification of Canada's economy more broadly. This comes with opportunities to build on the [existing leadership of Indigenous Nations in renewable electricity projects](#), and with the responsibility to [uphold Indigenous rights and Indigenous energy sovereignty](#). The shift toward renewable electricity also comes with significant reductions in air pollution and [savings](#) from avoided health system costs. However, attempts to better connect Canada's electricity system are beset by permitting and funding challenges, as well as [interprovincial trade barriers](#). Federal government leadership is clearly needed.

Canada faces threats from the current administration in the United States, and significant economic uncertainty. Better integrating Canada's electricity system is crucially important for energy security and economic competitiveness in the near term, but it is also a no-regret investment for the long-term prosperity of everyone living in Canada. Grid upgrades at this scale could create more than [300,000 jobs by 2050](#). These projects can facilitate clean economic growth in key sectors and, if materials are procured here in Canada, can also bolster sectors currently under attack by U.S. tariffs, such as aluminum and steel.

Consolidating and expanding these gains and opportunities requires a better east-west grid, and require key actions and commitments by this federal government in the near term, including these priorities:

- Commit significant federal funding toward permitting, planning and construction of **strategic interprovincial and intra-provincial electricity transmission projects**. In addition to project funding commitments, the federal government has a key role to play in resourcing and convening provinces, territories, Indigenous nations, utilities, proponents and other key stakeholders to ensure project success.

- The [Green Budget Coalition](#), [Green Economy Network](#) and [Climate Action Network Canada](#) each identify a funding commitment of at least \$20 billion over five years, beginning in Budget 2025, as an appropriate first step toward federal support for a pan-Canadian electricity network, while the [Canada Electricity Advisory Council](#) recommends significant investment and reducing barriers for these transmission projects.
- Uphold legal and inherent **Indigenous rights** for Indigenous communities throughout Canada. This includes recognizing **Indigenous Nations' leadership role in renewable electricity in Canada**, expanding support for Indigenous-owned and Indigenous-led electricity projects and upholding Canada's highest standards and responsibilities under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in upholding Indigenous Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.
- Implement **key labour supports** as a condition for federal funding on electricity projects, including prevailing wage requirements, training capacity and other just transition priorities. This support should prioritize unionized work and include support for youth, newcomers, Indigenous communities and other equity-deserving groups that are underrepresented in the skilled trades.
- Alongside the work on transmission and generation, the federal government should strengthen its financial support for **energy efficiency, demand-side management, energy storage and other electricity system upgrades** in line with delivering affordable, reliable, clean electricity to everyone living in Canada.
- With these priorities in mind, your government should update and implement **Canada's Electricity Strategy**. This includes implementing the Clean Electricity Regulations, and continuing to advance Canada's work to achieve a net-zero electricity grid.

Full list of 105 environment, labour, Indigenous and community group signatories:

350 Canada
 Action climat Outaouais (ACO)
 Algonquin Youth Collective
 AWARE Simcoe
 Blue Dot Northumberland
 Calgary Climate Hub
 Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
 Canadian Engaged Buddhism Association
 Canadian Environmental Law Association
 Canadian Health Association for Sustainability and Equity (CHASE)
 Canadian Interfaith Fast For the Climate
 Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice
 Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
 CEDAR project at St. Thomas University

Changing Course

Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada

Citizens Environment Alliance

Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ)

Clean Air Partnership

Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL)

Climate Action Muskoka

Climate Action Network Canada | Réseau action climat Canada

Climate Caucus

Climate Emergency Unit

Climate Justice Saskatoon

Climate Legacy

Climate Reality Project Canada

ClimateFast

Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB)

Community Bikeways (Toronto)

Community Power Northumberland Co-operative Inc

Concerned Citizens of Ramara

Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain - CSN

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

Council of Canadians- Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley

CUSP - Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet

David Suzuki Foundation

Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast

Ecojustice

Ecological Justice Working Group, United Church of Canada, Regions East

Ecologos | Water Docs

Ecology Action Centre

Environmental Defence Canada

Equiterre

Etobicoke Climate Action

For Our Kids

For Our Kids Toronto

For Our Kids, Burnaby

Fredericton Climate Hub
Friends of the Earth Canada
Good futures collective
Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP)
Green 13
Green Majority Radio
Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Hamilton 350
Just Earth
KAIROS Halifax
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
La planète s'invite au parlement
Leadnow
Leap4Wards
Mères au front
Ministry for Social Justice, Peace, and Creation Care - Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto
Montreal for a World Beyond War
Music Declares Emergency Canada
Native Calgarian Podcast
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
NFU Ontario local 335
Northwatch
Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Ontario Climate Emergency Campaign
Oxford Coalition for Social Justice
Oxford Environmental Action Committee
Pax Christi Toronto
Pembina Institute
Peterborough Pollinators
Pontiac Environment Protection
Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee
Protect Our Winters Canada
Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association
Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive

re•generation

Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l'environnement du Québec

Sacred Earth Solar

Saskatchewan Coalition for Sustainable Development

Saskatchewan Environmental Society

Saskatoon Climate Hub

Seniors For Climate

Seniors for Climate Action Now!

Shift: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health

Sierra Club Canada

Stand.earth

Syndicat des Spécialistes et Professionnels d'Hydro-Québec

TERRE - Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy

The Atmospheric Fund

Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Toronto East End Climate Collective

Toronto350

Transition écologique La Pêche Coalition for a Green New Deal

Trottier Family Foundation

Vegans & Vegetarians of Alberta

Vivre en Ville

York Region Environmental Alliance