House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** Canadian Electricity Association

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Infrastructure

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Electricity generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure are the fundamental drivers of any modern economy. A reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity supply is essential to the competitiveness and productivity of our economy, as well as the quality of our way of life. Much of the Canadian electricity infrastructure was built 30 years ago, and now needs to be replaced and upgraded. The Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) recommends that the Federal government provides support to provinces and the private sector as they invest in the renewal of our ageing infrastructure.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The financing of infrastructure renewal can be eased by federal support, thus reducing the costs borne by the electricity sector and ultimately by its rate-payers, at no cost to the federal government. For example, a federal loan-guarantee reduced the costs of the Lower Churchill hydro project, a multi-provincial collaboration that will allow the reduction of carbon-intensive electricity. CEA calls for similar federal support to other electricity projects in a fair and equitable fashion that will benefit Canada as a whole, in consultation with provincial and territorial governments.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

Additional federal support would benefit Canadian electricity utilities and their rate-payers across Canada. The renewal of the electricity infrastructure will allow both Crown and private utilities to continue providing world-class electricity services to their residential, commercial and industrial customers. An excellent electricity service also attracts international and national corporations to operate in Canada as part of the Canadian economy.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

As the Federal government supports major electricity infrastructure projects across provinces and territories, the renewal of our electricity infrastructure will continue to provide a reliable, affordable and sustainable source of electricity for our homes, businesses and industries. In addition, a recent Conference Board of Canada report indicated that investment in the renewal of the electricity infrastructure in Canada will generate an average of 156,000 jobs per year in the next two decades: providing training and employment opportunities to a generation of skilled workers across Canada.

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

CEA recommends that the Federal government continues to invest in innovative technologies such as smart grid, renewable energy integration, electrification of transportation, carbon-capture and sequestration, and demand-side management. Federal funding and leadership will not only improve our national energy landscape in terms of efficiency and productivity, but also position Canada as the leader in research and development of cutting-edge technologies in the global marketplace.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The Federal government should continue funding innovative projects through mechanisms such as the Clean Energy Fund, the Green Infrastructure Fund, and agencies such as Sustainable Development Technology Canada. Projects such as the Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Project and PowerShift Atlantic establish Canada as a world leader in the development and commercialization of renewable technology.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The electricity sector, the Research & Development sector, as well as other engineering and construction sectors across Canada will benefit from continued investment in innovative energy technologies. More generally, all Canadians benefit from innovation and commercialization as a sophisticated and reliable electricity system gives Canadian industries a competitive advantage and through innovation come new opportunities for efficiencies, conservation, and new energy options.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The development of new technologies that are both economically and environmentally more efficient will benefit both the Canadian public and its economy. An innovative energy technology sector will create jobs and training opportunities across its supply chain, as well as expand foreign markets for technology exports. In addition, Canadians will enjoy a cleaner environment from a more efficient electricity infrastructure, and will have greater control over their electricity choices, consumption and costs.

Topic: Education and skills training

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

The Canadian electricity sector employed over 108,000 workers in 2010. The electricity sector is facing three unprecedented challenges: the replacement of retiring workers, the training of a new generation of professionals, and skills needed to integrate new technologies such as smart grid. Aboriginals, women and other underrepresented groups can help meet the sector's employment needs. Federal support can raise awareness about careers in electricity and help fund the participation of underrepresented groups in trades training, apprenticeships and other needed occupations.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

Please select from the drop down menu

Please select from the drop down menu

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

As the electricity sector continues to expand to meet our energy needs, electricity projects are increasingly being sited on Aboriginal land and developed in collaboration with Aboriginal communities. Thus, there is a significant need for quality federal Aboriginal training programs. CEA calls for the Federal government to continue the re-organization, streamlining, and improvement of federal Aboriginal training programs, and allocate additional funds from the Canada Job Grant program to improve productivity and address labour market challenges in the electricity sector.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The Aboriginal community and other underrepresented potential sources of skilled labour across Canada.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Federal support will help Aboriginals and other underrepresented communities find employment in their own communities and across Canada. In particular, Aboriginal training programs will provide a pool of appropriately skilled local labour so that communities can derive greater benefit from collaborative projects with the electricity sector.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

As CEA's recommendations are broader in scope than a single Budget ask with clear costs or savings over a set time period, we did not use the pull-down menus provided in the online submission form.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided