



Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of Canada

Pre-Budget Submission 2020

August 2019



Recommendation 1: Due to the geographic constraints of the existing programs, the Government of Canada should create an Apprenticeship Travel Grant that could be used by those who are required to travel in order to undertake an apprenticeship training program. This Grant should be targeted towards those enrolled in programs that are not offered in their city, town or province.

Recommendation 2: This Grant should be a taxable cash grant of \$2,000-\$4,000 per person per, year in order to provide support for items such as travel costs, lodging, and care arrangements for families.

Recommendation 3: The Government of Canada should provide targeted and dedicated investment in camping/RV infrastructure in Canada's National Parks. The 119 Federal campgrounds are comprised of over 10,800 campsites. Of these sites, 7911, or 80%, remain un-serviced. Investing in camping/RV infrastructure will play a critical role in the overall contributions of the tourism industry to future economic development and prosperity.



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About the RVDA of Canada:

The Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association (RVDA) of Canada is a national, volunteer federation of provincial and regional RVDA associations and their members who have united to form a professional trade association for all businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry. The core objective of the RVDA of Canada is to bring together and represent the retail businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry across Canada, thus providing the support and strength to protect and promote the interests and welfare of Canadian RV Dealers, and to maximize the potential of the industry for all involved.

RVing in Canada also has a considerable impact on the Canadian economy. The manufacturing, purchasing, servicing, and use of recreation vehicles contributes billions – both directly and indirectly – to the Canadian economy each year. In 2017, the RV industry supported 66,000 jobs and there was \$6.1 billion in total spending—about \$3.4 billion of that was for the sales and servicing of RVs. There are over 4,231 campgrounds operated across Canada, each offering a unique experience for Canadians and international visitors. Canada’s 2.1 million RV owners took an estimated 8.2 million RV trips in Canada in 2017. Further to this, Canadians who rented RVs took an estimated 612,000 trips in Canada bringing the total to 8.8 million RV trips. With an estimated \$3.3 billion in spending from these trips, RV tourism is the largest contributor to the overall impact by a significant margin.

The implementation of the RVDA of Canada’s three key recommendations will ensure the continued success of the RV and camping industry in Canada. To better help RVing thrive as an industry throughout the country, it is essential that we provide increased support for skilled workers in the RV industry and build upon the critical infrastructure required in our national parks. These recommendations would seamlessly complement the Government’s commitments as outlined in previous budgets and Canada’s Tourism Strategy.

We would also like to use this opportunity to congratulate Canada and the United States governments on the trade deal to lift the devastating steel and aluminum tariffs. These tariffs have disrupted the integrated North-American supply chain and added unnecessary costs for businesses and consumers. The removal of the steel and aluminum tariffs along with CUSMA represent a major stepping stone for Canada and the RV industry. We would like to thank all the RV dealers for their continuous support throughout this process.

2020 Budget Recommendations:

1. Increased Support for Skilled Workers in the RV Industry

The shortage of skilled workers remains a key concern for the RV industry. Currently, out of 1080 full-time RV service technicians throughout Canada, only half have the Red Seal Designation.

There are currently only two programs in Canada that offer RV service technician apprenticeship training – in British Columbia and Alberta. Each of these programs provide Red Seal Designation that is accepted nation-wide. The existing programs reach full enrolment each year and often hold waiting lists for an additional several dozen prospective students.

Training programs are offered in other provinces, but they are not accepted as full apprenticeship programs. As a result, few RV service technicians who actually work in the industry are classified as apprentices.



We applaud the government for the focus on skills and training in budget 2019. New measures such as the Canada Training Benefit, more funding for Skills Canada and the new apprenticeship strategy will help Canadians get the skills they need. We look forward to working with the government in the development of the new apprenticeship strategy.

Recommendation:

- Due to the geographic constraints of the existing programs, the Government of Canada should create an Apprenticeship Travel Grant that could be used by those who are required to travel in order to undertake an apprenticeship training program. This Grant should be targeted towards those enrolled in programs that are not offered in their city, town or province.
- This Grant should be a taxable cash grant of \$2,000-\$4,000 per person per year in order to provide support for such items as travel costs, lodging, and care arrangements for families.

2. Critical Infrastructure Investment to Support the RV Industry

There are over 4,231 campgrounds operated across Canada, each offering a unique experience for Canadians and international visitors. As campground services continue to rise in demand, critical infrastructure needs - such as sizing requirements to accommodate larger RVs and access to appropriate electrical outlets and waste disposal facilities - remain unfunded.

As RVing is a large component of tourism, both internally and externally, investment in camping and RVing infrastructure will play a crucial role in the overall contributions of the tourism industry to future economic development and prosperity. Upgrades in infrastructure are essential if we want to be able to ensure the future of this industry and make it more accessible to all Canadians.

Recommendation:

- The Government of Canada should provide targeted and dedicated investment in camping/RV infrastructure in Canada's National Parks. The 119 Federal campgrounds are comprised of over 10,800 campsites. Of these sites, 7911 or 80% remain un-serviced. Investing in camping/RV infrastructure will play a critical role in the overall contributions of the tourism industry to future economic development and prosperity.