

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

By: Ecology Action Centre

Recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1:** Build into all future Climate Lens infrastructure funding dispersed to provincial governments the requirement for a 50% greenhouse gas reduction in operation emissions to be achieved for each project.
- **Recommendation 2:** Comprehensively consider available financing options for energy efficient buildings, including loan guarantees, dedicated Canada Infrastructure Bank funding, and creating a new National Green Bank.
- **Recommendation 3:** Invest \$300 million over three years in training for Canada's low-carbon building workforce.
- **Recommendation 4:** Establish revolving funds for sustained investment into Net Zero Energy Ready projects for small and mid-sized communities with an up to 25-year pay-back period. This may be similar to the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and Low Carbon Communities Canada program.

Body of Submission

In the words of Greta Thunberg, “our house is on fire”. We must act accordingly. The science is clear – we have 10 years to act if we want a liveable, survivable, never mind affordable, future for our children.

The recommendations that for Canada's upcoming Federal Budget reflect our collective experience working nation-wide with industry, non-profits, academic institutions, and communities. Federal contributions to building retrofits are critical to achieve Canada's commitment to the [Paris Agreement](#) signed in 2015.

No funding dispersed by the federal government should ignore the effects of climate change if Canada is committed to achieving its Paris agreement reduction targets. There are many ways to reduce a building's greenhouse gas emissions including fuel switching, and energy efficiency as outlined by the Senate report titled: [Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Canada's Built Environment](#).

Canada needs to refurbish existing buildings, to remove existing needs on fossil fuels, improve energy efficiency, make them more responsive to fluctuating demand on the electrical grid and make them more resilient to climate impacts. Many reports, including the [Green Stimulus Publication](#) by the Pembina Institute, suggest that refurbishing existing buildings can be achieved through the creation of a national green bank that helps fund energy retrofits specifically.

Under the [Pan-Canadian Framework](#), energy efficiency measures are expected to cut carbon pollution by 52 million tonnes by 2030, as they help reduce the consumption of electricity, natural gas, and refined petroleum products like heating oil, which amounts to one-quarter of Canada's Paris climate commitment. As Canada invests in higher energy efficiency requirements for existing buildings, an increase in demand for trained workers will need to be met. According the [Less is More](#) report published by Efficiency Canada, implementing the energy efficiency actions in the Pan-Canadian Framework will add 118,000 jobs (average annual full-time equivalent) to the Canadian economy. If Canada commits to future that has a focus on climate change, as it must, and implements best-in-class energy efficiency standards across the country, over 174,000 jobs will be created by 2030.

The federal government must step up to provide \$300 million in funding to ensure that the workforce is adequately trained to meet the demand of low-carbon buildings. Training programs for new energy efficiency jobs will need to be expanded to meet the industry demand for additional workers. In the

residential sector, training programs will need to focus on building envelope related trades: building envelope (framing, roofing, exterior cladding, windows, insulation), heating/AC and air exchange. Training programs can and must include building science theory, but those already working in the trades will also need specific training: short study programs delivered by industry or online so as not to interfere too much with the ability of tradespeople to work.

Trades people will not be the only people who will need training for the low-carbon building transition. Building Inspectors and Municipal Officials will also need training and additional tools to ensure quality of the energy efficient retrofits and builds. Further, each project will require energy modelling and experts to create these models. Designers, engineers, architects, builders, building operators and managers need to be trained with low-carbon skills.

There are over 300,000 Canadians employed in the commercial and industrial construction industry across Canada. According to [Build Force Canada](#), 50,200 more will be needed by 2029 and 257,000 more over the next decade to replace the anticipated retirements of current workers. In the residential industry, there are 586,450 jobs in renovation, and 421,942 in the residential construction industry. According to [Build Force Canada](#), It is estimated that 100,000 new entrants to the industry will be necessary by 2027 to sustain it.

Contact

Ben Grieder
Energy Coordinator
2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4L3
bengrieder@ecologyaction.ca
902-442-0199