

Dear Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee for Finance

On behalf of the Canadian nuclear industry, I am writing today to share with you our industry's recommendations for the committee's consideration regarding the next federal budget and or future economic stimulus initiatives.

We are going through unprecedented times. The global pandemic and its economic and social ramifications will have long lasting impacts. As you well know there are a number of challenges that are occurring at the same time. Combatting the COVID-19 health pandemic, protecting Canadians lively hood, stimulating the economy and achieving long term goals such as net zero emissions targets by 2050 are all interconnected.

I would like to commend you, the parliamentarians, for all your efforts and leadership in facing the challenges in fighting a pandemic, mitigating the related economic disruption and, all the while, planting the seeds for economic recovery.

The organizations and individuals that make up the Canadian nuclear industry have worked tirelessly to ensure the continuous, safe, and efficient operation of electricity infrastructure for this country's first responders, hospitals, and Canadian families during this challenging period. At the same time, the nuclear industry has contributed significantly in fighting COVID- 19. This includes donating millions of masks and other personal protective equipment. It has also made significant financial contributions to community efforts and investments in research and development to produce medical devices, such as ventilators. We remain on standby for any other ways in which we may support Canadians during this difficult time.

As the parliamentarians consider options towards the future and economic recovery, there is a unique opportunity to both meet long-term objectives and stimulate the economy. There is an opportunity to invest in sustainable, environmentally focused projects that help to meet net-zero emissions goals by 2050, create opportunities for clean, non-emitting energy for rural, remote and indigenous communities and create jobs and investments across Canada.

The Canadian nuclear industry envisions a future that is characterized by cleaner, quieter, more efficient machines, vehicles, technologies and industrial processes. A future where Canadians have easier access to environmentally friendly, cost effective options in their lifestyle choices. A future that supports social and economic development opportunities for rural, remote and indigenous communities. And a future where Canada is leading the world in emission reductions and meeting climate change goals. **This future is achieved with a rapid shift to clean electricity.**



The Conference Board of Canada estimates that \$1.7 trillion in electricity infrastructure will be needed by 2050 to meet existing climate targets. Canada is well-positioned to make this change, with abundant sources of clean electricity, including hydro, a wide selection of renewables, and nuclear. Nuclear power delivers carbon-free, reliable energy 24 hours a day, and has historically been one of the largest contributors of carbon-free electricity globally. Because of the small land and mining footprint, emissions free power, and waste management standards, nuclear power is the most environmentally friendly energy source on earth.

In Canada, the nuclear industry generates more than 30 per cent of New Brunswick's and 60 per cent of Ontario's clean electricity. The climate benefits of adopting nuclear power are tangible; a look at the reduction of smog days in the greater Toronto area since the closure of coal plants and expansion of nuclear are just one such example.

At the same time, the economic benefits of nuclear are felt across the country. The industry generates 76,000 direct and indirect jobs and contributes more than \$17 billion to the Canadian economy annually.

With the introduction of new nuclear technology in the form of small modular reactors, we expect that Canada will tap into an anticipated global market of \$150 billion, creating more secure jobs, intellectual property and supply chains.

Presently Canada is seen as a leader in clean energy technology development. The Small Modular Reactor Road map was instrumental in pulling together the federal, provincial governments and industry to identify opportunities associated with this technology. However, there is a growing sense that Canada may lose its leadership position as other countries such as the United State of America make investments to develop and deploy this technology.

Along with wind, solar, water and energy storage, nuclear has a vital role in our electric, carbon-free future. To achieve this clean electricity future, the Canadian Nuclear Association recommends that the next federal budget and or economic stimulus initiatives include the following:

1. A pan-Canadian electrification strategy to support all clean energy technologies, including wind, solar, water and nuclear. This would ensure a holistic approach and direction from the federal government to electrifying key sectors such as transportation, natural resources and industrial processes, where possible. The CNA would be pleased to lead or support this initiative as needed.
2. Continued support for development in the critical clean nuclear sector. This includes continued support for one of the largest infrastructure projects in Canada – the \$26 billion refurbishments of the Bruce Power and Darlington Nuclear plants, which have downstream impacts on the several-hundred firms that make up the Canadian nuclear

supply chain. It is worth noting that within this supply chain is a unique Canadian capability in uranium production that provides opportunities for northern, remote and Indigenous communities. The uranium industry requires particular attention through appropriate regulatory regimes and financial support to address economic and labor stabilization needs due to COVID-19.

3. Timely federal investments to ensure the development and deployment of small modular reactors in Canada. Provinces such as New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan have explicitly expressed an interest in developing their technologies that could be applied to reduce emissions from their electricity grids and very small reactors that could enable reducing emissions from the resource development sectors.

SMRs could also provide clean energy to rural, remote and indigenous communities. This would enhance opportunities for those communities through economic and social development.

4. Now broadly accepted as such, the clear articulation of nuclear as “clean” and “non-emitting” across all government departments and policy frameworks and the inclusion of nuclear in export development and climate change policies. Nuclear provides a reliable, safe and clean baseload that enables the further development of renewable technologies. The industry must have access to clean funding through various energy, environment and infrastructure programs to ensure further development and the creation of vital, high-skilled jobs. A clear articulation of nuclear as “clean” will ensure this.

As the Committee undertakes its activities and meets with Canadian to identify opportunities that could be part of the federal Budget and or economic stimulus efforts, we would be pleased to be part of any hearings that would be scheduled.

Again, we thank you for your leadership. Please feel free in contacting me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Gorman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Nuclear Association