



Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) Questions for Federal Leaders and Parties

1. Enhancing the Federal Government's Role in Electricity

Electricity, like other forms of energy, is a provincially-regulated industry. Unique regional systems, integration with the U.S., given the reality of our shared North American grid, and a range of policy priorities at different levels of government, creates diverse challenges and opportunities for CEA members across the country. In this regard, there is a need for a stronger national voice; one that would provide a more coordinated and coherent national framework.

CEA was encouraged by the integration of electricity into the Council of the Federation's Canadian Energy Strategy, released in July, 2015. The Premiers captured the indispensable importance that electricity plays in the economic life of Canada, the everyday lives of Canadians and the need for a cohesive, national approach.

- i) How would your Government improve coordination and leadership on electricity issues at the federal level?**

- ii) Would you be committed to holding a First Minister's Meeting on Energy, in an effort to build upon and eventually implement a Canadian Energy Strategy?**

2. Federal Leadership to Advance Nation Building Electricity Infrastructure Projects

The renewal of electricity infrastructure is critical to maintaining a modern, prosperous economy and the high quality of life that Canadians have come to expect.

According to ReNew Canada's *Top 100 Infrastructure Projects* ranking, CEA members are leading five of the top 10 infrastructure projects in the country, and own 23 of the 31 energy projects. This accounts for over \$55 billion of investment across the country, bringing with it increased employment in electricity, construction, manufacturing, and other service industries by an additional 156,000 jobs per year between 2011 and 2030.

However, there is considerable concern across the country about the pace of this renewal, particularly land-based electricity infrastructure. Moreover, a number of different business sectors are worried about our capacity to build new infrastructure, given increasing delays and difficulties.

Timely decision making on major project approvals provides much needed certainty to investors and are an indispensable first step in continuing to build and strengthen Canada's economy for the future. The federal government has considerable jurisdiction in this regard,

including constitutional authority for Aboriginal peoples and its corresponding duty to consult.

i) If elected, how would your Government increase certainty on the land base, by ensuring federal decisions pertaining to the much needed renewal of electricity infrastructure will be made in a timely, determined, and inclusive manner?

3. Supporting Electricity Innovation

The federal government plays an important role, through its tax and spend authority, in inducing Canadian companies to innovate, through the acquisition of advanced technologies and the pursuit of enhanced R&D. This of course is an important contributor to our economic performance and productivity as a nation.

- i) Given the electricity sector's need for substantial renewal of its aging infrastructure, in an effort to sustain reliability of power for Canadians and our national economy, how would your Government support electricity infrastructure renewal and encourage investment in clean energy technologies?**
- ii) What is your party's plan for a more aggressive and ambitious R&D strategy for Canada?**

4. Connecting the North

As a result of being isolated from the North American high voltage grid, most of Canada's North relies on self-contained grids to power communities and industry. Reliance on diesel generation, particularly in remote communities, has significant consequences on price, reliability and the environment. Electricity has the potential to address these challenges and unlock new economic opportunities for the North, including new resource development projects, however, new and expanded electricity generation and transmission infrastructure is required.

- i) How would your Government support the need for new and expanded electricity infrastructure in Canada's North?**
- ii) Would you be committed to working with territorial and provincial governments and industry to develop a plan to connect Canada's North to the continental grid?**

5. Enhancing Security Against Cyber Attacks

Cyber-attacks are real, from Heartbleed which took the Canada Revenue Agency's systems off line last year during tax filing as well as revelations this past summer of the compromise and penetration of the systems of the National Research Council. The pace of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure is exponentially on the rise, at a time where there is an increase in automation in the economy generally, and as new grid automation technologies are being introduced in the electricity sector, from smart meters to connected industrial control systems.



- i) **How would your Government provide leadership on cyber security?**
- ii) **Some countries have established specific targets for spending on cyber security and cyber defense for both government agencies and critical infrastructure. What actions would your government take to ensure that critical infrastructure owners and operators are investing sufficiently to protect critical cyber assets?**
- iii) **Given that cyber threat are on the rise, and that hackers attack around the clock, what is your plan for the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre (CCIRC), the agency charged with helping critical infrastructure and keeping Canadian cyber safe?**

6. Protecting the Grid: Copper Theft

Each and every year there are hundreds of copper thefts from electric utility facilities across the country, which have resulted in power outages. The damage to utilities alone is conservatively estimated at \$40 million annually and since 2006, there have been 9 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

Currently, Criminal Code penalties do not accurately reflect the severity of copper theft. Nor does it act as an effective deterrent. Accordingly, CEA has strongly advocated for focused amendments to strengthen the Criminal Code provisions. Accordingly, there were two Private Members' Bills (C-609 & C-639) introduced in the 41st Parliament to address this shortcoming, but they unfortunately did not pass before the dissolution of Parliament.

- i) **How would your Government approach this issue?**
- ii) **What kind of an action plan would you put in place to implement best practices and approaches across Canada?**
- iii) **Would you be prepared to support amending the Criminal Code in a manner similar to Bills C-609 and C-639?**

7. Embracing the Electric Vehicle (EV)

The electrification of the transportation sector can contribute to substantial reductions in greenhouse gases. In addition, the sale of electric vehicles (EVs) in Canada has increased rapidly in recent years, as they have in other countries. There is a definite support and leadership role for the federal government in this policy space.

- i) **In embracing the EVs, would your government introduce a specific target for integrating EVs in the federal vehicle fleet?**
- ii) **What would those targets be, and under what timeline?**

