



Canadian Electricity Association (CEA)

1. Enhancing the Federal Government's Role in Electricity

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

Climate and energy are two sides of the same coin. We urgently need a comprehensive, science-based national climate and energy strategy to address rising sea levels, drought, extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, increased forest fires, melting permafrost and crumbling Arctic infrastructure.

To facilitate federal leadership in electricity, a [Council of Canadian Governments](#) – representing the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous governments – would meet to draft a comprehensive National Energy Strategy. We also need a national energy strategy and energy policies that serve both Canada's economic prosperity and the planet's goal of carbon neutrality by the end of the century, encouraging the development of cleaner energy sources, and rationalizing Canada's fragmented electricity market. For a secure future, we need to think like a country, diversify our energy portfolio and maximize value added to production in Canada. Our solutions lie in renewable energy, clean technologies and energy productivity.

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?

The Green Party is committed to holding a First Minister's Meeting on Energy to build upon and implement a robust National Energy Strategy. A National Energy Strategy will ensure Canadian energy security, promote value-added jobs from all energy sources, and facilitate a shift away from unsustainable fossil fuels. We will offer federal funding and incentives to provinces and territories that adopt policies in support of renewable energy.

2. Federal Leadership to Advance Nation Building Electricity Infrastructure Projects

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?

Social license is necessary to get shovels in the ground. Delays and project cancellations are costly. The Green Party will increase certainty on the land base by making strict standards for environment, safety, and consultation clear from start.

The Green Party is fully committed to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This means enshrining true principles of free, prior, and informed consent into all law, policies, and practices related to extractive industries at home and abroad. Nothing less is acceptable.

We will work together to negotiate comprehensive Indigenous self-governance arrangements. Our Council of Canadian Governments will, for the first time, engage First Nations, Metis and Inuit leadership as full partners in inter-governmental decision-making – for the good of us all and not solely on indigenous issues.

We will work with First Nations and with the provinces to ensure that the responsible development of Canada's natural-resource wealth benefits all Canadians, beginning with the consent of the peoples on whose traditional territories they exist. Truly responsible resource development means securing Canada's endowment of living systems and natural wealth, by setting strict rules on industrial development to eliminate waste and environmental pollution, limiting foreign control over Canadian resources, and putting an end to high-risk plans for new raw bitumen export pipelines and tankers.

By investing heavily in advanced skills training, expanding support for trades and apprentice programs, and capturing additional value by processing resources here in Canada, we will create good jobs in the energy sector and in local communities. All while ensuring Canadians who call this place home have a say in developing our resources.



3. Supporting Electricity Innovation

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?

The Green Party will invest in infrastructure that promotes renewable energy. We will dedicate \$1 billion a year to improve electrical grids with smart upgrades to equally allow for distribution and collection of energy. These upgrades would also support the capability to store energy with pumped storage or compressed air as well as improving grid fail-safety. The program is a long-term investment lasting 10 years. We need a more robust east-west electricity grid to promote renewable energy transmission between provinces, while reducing the enormous waste in our energy systems. We will facilitate increased access to early-stage financing for Canadian entrepreneurs to help good ideas and technology get off the drawing board and the lab bench and into the market, where they can help grow our sustainable economy and create employment.

The clean technology sector is a growth area for Canada's economy and requires much more attention from the Minister of Industry. Canada's clean tech exports are on a par with those of mining, wood, livestock and processed food. Among other things, the federal government should consider ways to help qualified clean technology companies with critical access to both debt and equity financing.

ii) What is your party's plan for a more aggressive and ambitious R&D strategy for Canada?

We will direct funds to innovators and R&D. We need to embrace the 21st century economic revolution of clean technology. More R&D and innovation will come from manufacturing and clean technology. Greens want to create a federally-funded \$1 billion per year Green Technology Commercialization Grants to accelerate emerging technologies and give Canadian entrepreneurs a head start. By facilitating increased access to early-stage financing, the Green Technology Commercialization Grant will help our entrepreneurs compete internationally. It will help good ideas and emerging technology get to market, growing our sustainable economy and creating good local jobs and opportunities in our communities.



4. Connecting the North

i) How would your Government support the need for new and expanded electricity infrastructure in Canada's North?

The Green Party will combat energy poverty in Canada's North. We will support the installation of new and expanded electricity infrastructure in Canada's North. We will study the recommendations of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources on "Powering Canada's Territories" and work with local communities on the sustainable energy infrastructure that works best for them, as part of a National Energy Strategy.

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?

Yes. As part of a National Energy Strategy developed with all levels of government, the Green Party will work with territorial and provincial governments to develop the best plan for northern electricity.

5. Enhancing Security Against Cyber Attacks

i) How would your Government provide leadership on cyber security?

A Green government would focus on cyber security from three perspectives; critical infrastructure, business, and personal.

We will immediately create a panel of experts to review the existing monitoring and evaluation of critical infrastructure.

We will review the business impact in a post-Snowden world regarding the trust of our businesses, as well as ensuring best practices are available to all business owners. There should also be a security testing tool available for business owners; one of our candidates wrote the first free web-based port scanning tool on the internet.

We will amend PIPEDA, allowing the Privacy Commissioner to proactively investigate an organization if a warrant was obtained based on evidence; the complaint-only driven system is ineffective. The reasonable standard for storage on portable devices should include public key encryption, where the private key is not stored on the device in question.

The Green Party would immediately begin to dismantle the surveillance culture created by the Liberals at the turn of the century, and increased by the Conservatives. Canadians should not



be surveilled without a warrant. We would ask for a third party analysis of what could be done to protect and maintain Canadian Internet Sovereignty; to ensure Canadians can securely communicate online without interception by foreign governments being default behaviour. Right now, the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) is casting a wide net for collection that knowingly includes innocent Canadians, steps must be put into place to resolve this.

CSIS and CSE need proper oversight, by a parliamentary committee similar to our five eyes peers, as well as by the Privacy Commissioner. This oversight should be financed to a satisfactory level to achieve their basic mandate of oversight.

There are missed economic opportunities by not having secure data centres and enforced privacy laws in Canada -- we envision a Canada where the global digital community chooses Canada to store their sensitive data and we have the infrastructure and trust in place to handle this.

A Green government will encourage the integration of digital identity, privacy, and security, in the school system.

A data breach must be reviewed by an independent third party who will notify the Privacy Commissioner of the severity. When it has been discovered how a data breach occurred, measures will be put in place to ensure that type of attack can never happen again.

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?

In order to ensure critical infrastructure owners and operators are sufficiently protecting critical assets, there needs to be regular testing by different independent third parties in the form of evaluation, vulnerability assessments, and penetration tests. These should be taken by competing third parties. Incentives, or bug bounties, should be paid to security auditors based on severity, at the expense of the critical infrastructure owners and operators .

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?



We would like an immediate review of CCIRC to [evaluate their performance to date](#) to understand its effectiveness. The Harper Conservatives have failed in their mandate to keep Canadians informed about security vulnerabilities affecting their businesses.

6. Protecting the Grid: Copper Theft

i) How would your Government approach this issue?

The Green Party recognizes the damage to the electricity industry by copper theft and the danger it poses to human life. We will work with the electricity industry to implement best practices in preventing copper theft.

ii) What kind of an action plan would you put in place to implement best practices and approaches across Canada?

The Green Party will study the recommendations of your report “Copper Theft from Canada’s Electricity Infrastructure: Dangerous, Expensive and a Threat to Reliability” and work to implement an action plan that ends copper theft.

iii) Would you be prepared to support amending the Criminal Code in a manner similar to Bills C-609 and C-639?

We support amending the Criminal Code to deter copper theft. However, this amendment needs to be narrowly focused to reach its goal. We do not support Bill C-639 which had too broad a scope but would be prepared to support Bill C-609.

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?

The Green Party of Canada has a comprehensive plan to encourage the use of electric vehicles and other forms of green transportation across the country. Employing currently available green technologies to make transportation more efficient will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transport sector, which accounts for about 25% of Canada’s emissions.

The Green Party will incentivize the use of electric vehicles and work to make electric vehicles and infrastructure more widespread. Today’s fully electric vehicles are economical for city driving, and models are in development that will replace the full function of an internal



combustion engine vehicle. As more electric and hybrid vehicles become available at affordable prices, non-hybrid internal combustion engine personal vehicles should be phased out. To fully support green electric vehicles, we must also eliminate coal-based electricity throughout Canada.

The Green Party will Accelerate the market arrival of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and fully electric vehicles by signing the Plug-In Partners advanced purchasing agreement (creating a federal buying pool) with a commitment to buy large numbers of PHEVs for federal government use as soon as they are available. Carbon conditionality clauses in federal contracts will include a requirement for the purchase of plug-in vehicles as soon as they are more readily available.

