



## Liberal Party of Canada

350 Albert, Suite 920  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

## Parti Libéral du Canada

350 rue Albert, Suite 920  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

October 5, 2015

Hon. Sergio Marchi, President  
Canadian Electricity Association  
275 Slater Street, Suite 1500  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 5H9

5 octobre 2015

Hon. Sergio Marchi, Président  
Association Canadienne de l'électricité  
275, rue Slater, bureau 1500  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 5H9

Dear Mr. Marchi,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party of Canada's formal response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our policies online at [RealChange.ca](http://RealChange.ca). This site provides details on a Liberal government's policies, goals, and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Justin Trudeau, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership.

We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party of Canada's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Anna Gainey, President  
Liberal Party of Canada

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Cher M. Marchi,

Veillez trouver ci-joint la réponse formelle du Parti libéral du Canada à votre questionnaire.

Pour en apprendre davantage au sujet de la vision que le Parti libéral a pour le Canada, prenez un moment pour consulter nos politiques en ligne à [ChangeRassemble.ca](http://ChangeRassemble.ca). Ce site présente des détails sur les politiques, les objectifs et les priorités d'un gouvernement libéral.

Au nom de notre chef, Justin Trudeau, et de son équipe toute entière, je tiens à vous remercier de nous avoir fait part des inquiétudes de vos membres.

Nous sommes reconnaissants de l'intérêt que vous portez aux politiques du Parti libéral du Canada, parce qu'elles concernent les questions qui vous touchent.

Bien cordialement,

Anna Gainey, Présidente  
Parti libéral du Canada

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[LE FRANÇAIS SUIV L'ANGLAIS]

## 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?*

A Liberal government will be full partners with the provinces and territories who are already working to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy. Our primary objectives will be ensuring Canada's energy security, energy conservation, and bringing more clean, renewable energy onto the electricity grid, including through direct federal infrastructure investments.

- 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?*

Yes. As Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau will attend the December 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, and will invite all Premiers to join him. Within 90 days of the conference, a First Ministers meeting will be held to work together on a framework to combat climate change. Energy and energy efficiency will be a central component of that meeting. As noted above, we will also be full partners with the provinces and territories already working to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy and a Liberal government is committed to holding an annual First Ministers' meeting, and frequently and actively engaging with each Premier in service to the people of their province or territory.

### 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?*

We need clear and efficient processes that have reasonable, even-handed rules, clear beginning and ending points, and decisions that can be relied on. A Liberal government will launch an immediate, public review of Canada's environmental assessment processes. Based on this review, a Liberal government will replace Mr. Harper's changes to the environmental assessment process – with a new, comprehensive, timely, and fair process that:

- Restores robust oversight and thorough environmental assessments – which have been gutted by this Conservative government – of areas under federal jurisdiction, while also working with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that processes are not duplicated;
- Ensures decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence, and serve the public's interest;
- Provides ways for interested Canadians to express their views and for experts to meaningfully participate in assessment processes; and
- Requires project proponents to choose the best technologies available to reduce environmental impacts.

Moreover, we will, in full partnership and consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, undertake a full review of regulatory law, policies, and operational practices. This will ensure that the

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Crown is fully executing its consultation, accommodation, and consent obligations on project reviews and assessments, in accordance with its constitutional and international human rights obligations. These include Aboriginal and Treaty rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### 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?*

A Liberal government will be a full partner with the provinces and territories already working to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy, which will include a strategy to develop and enhance of a modern, reliable, environmentally safe, and efficient series of transmission and transportation networks for domestic and export/import sources of energy. Our primary objectives will be ensuring Canada's energy security, energy conservation, and bringing more clean, renewable energy onto the electricity grid, including through direct federal infrastructure investments. We will also establish the Canada Green Investment Bond to support both large- and community-scale renewable energy projects. The bond will leverage the federal government's ability to provide more affordable loan guarantees for clean energy projects, and provide Canadians with the opportunity to invest in clean technologies.

In terms of encouraging investment in clean technologies, a Liberal government will invest \$200 million more annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors. In addition, we will invest \$100 million more per year in organizations that have been successful at supporting the emergence of clean technology firms in Canada and work in partnership with the private sector to enhance the availability of venture capital for new, clean technology.

We will also consult on ways to enhance the scientific research and experimental development tax credit – in conjunction with other tax measures – to generate more clean technology investment. We will start by adding electricity storage technologies and electrical car charging stations to the list of investments that are eligible for accelerated capital cost allowance. Further, a Liberal government will proactively work with provinces and firms to fight for every dollar of global investment, and will bring more clean technology companies and investment to Canada.

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

A Liberal government will kick-start Canada's innovation potential, with significant investments over the next three years to boost Canada's innovative capacity and to help dynamic firms grow and create new jobs.

A new Liberal government will:

- Invest \$200 million per year, in each of the next three years, in a new innovation agenda. We will provide direct support to business incubators and accelerators, research facilities, financing, and other support for successful small companies wanting to grow and export. The objective is to create successful networks like the American and German partnerships between businesses, government, and university and college research. Working with provinces, post-



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secondary institutions, and industry, this funding will also help modernize and strengthen the technology transfer and commercialization functions at universities and colleges.

- Invest an additional \$100 million per year, in each of the next three years, in the Industrial Research Assistance Program. This new investment will include the implementation of a Small Business Innovation and Research Program, modelled after successful programs in the United States, Australia, and Japan. We will also set aside a portion of federal procurement budgets for promising new Canadian technologies and businesses, consistent with international trade obligations.

Moreover, in order to seize the opportunities in the growing clean technology marketplace, we have also already committed to:

- Invest \$200 million annually to create sector-specific strategies that support innovation and clean technologies in the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors.
- Invest an additional \$100 million annually in clean technology producers, so that they can tackle Canada's most pressing environmental challenges, whether in our air, in our water, or on our land.

## 4. Connecting the North

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

A Liberal government will work in partnership with Northerners, industry and entrepreneurs to increase the availability of clean renewable energy in the North and improve infrastructure such as transmission lines and smart grids.

- 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?*

We will be full partners with the provinces and territories already working to develop a Canadian Energy Strategy. One of the key components of that strategy is the development and enhancement of a modern, reliable, environmentally safe, and efficient series of transmission and transportation networks for both domestic and export/import sources of energy, including through direct federal infrastructure investments.

In addition, we will establish the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) to provide low-cost financing to build new infrastructure projects. Where a lack of capital available to provincial or municipal governments represents a barrier to projects, the CIB will be mandated to provide loan guarantees and small capital contributions to ensure that the projects are built. Moreover, we will issue Green Bonds to support both large and community-scale renewable energy projects. The bond will leverage the federal government's ability to provide more affordable loan guarantees for clean energy projects, and provide Canadians with the opportunity to invest in clean technologies. Green infrastructure projects eligible for investment include – but are not limited to helping provinces and territories invest in the kind of modern grid, power storage, and transmission that ensure a bigger role for clean energy.



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## 5. Enhancing Security Against Cyber Attacks

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

While the Internet has brought innumerable advantages, it has also led to new risks from criminals, as well as repressive governments and their proxies. Effectively combating cybercrime necessitates enhanced international cooperation facilitated through mechanisms such as the *Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime* (Budapest Convention). A Liberal government would work in close partnership with our international allies to combat this growing threat and ensure that Canadian law enforcement agencies have the tools to keep up with technologies that are increasingly a part of today's crime.

- 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?*

A Liberal government will work cooperatively with all domestic and international partners, including Canadian critical infrastructure owners and operators, to ensure Canada has a comprehensive and effective approach to cyber security, which keeps Canadians and our economy safe.

- 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?*

A Liberal government will ensure that the CCIRC has the tools and resources it needs to effectively combat, and most importantly prevent, cyber-crime.

## 6. Protecting the Grid: Copper Theft

- 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?*

### COMBINED ANSWER:

The Liberal Party of Canada believes that copper theft is a serious public safety issue. It can cause danger to workers, first responders, and cause power outages. A Liberal government will work with in partnership industry, provinces, territories and other stakeholders to develop and implement further measures to protect Canada's critical infrastructure.

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

While Liberals supports keeping Canada's critical infrastructure safe, we also believe that we must find the right balance between our security and protection of our rights and freedoms.

## **7. Embracing the Electric Vehicle (EV)**

- i) *In embracing the EVs, would your government introduce a specific target for integrating EVs in the federal vehicle fleet?*

A Liberal government will ensure the federal government is a 'test-bed' for emerging technologies, will add electric vehicle charging facilities at federal parking lots, and will rapidly add electric vehicles to the federal fleet.

- ii) *What would those targets be, and under what timeline?*

A Liberal government will integrate electric vehicles into the federal fleet as soon as the necessary infrastructure can be put in place. The goal will be integrate those electric vehicles as rapidly as possible.

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