



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

Canadian Electricity Association

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

The NDP will make it a priority to help provinces and territories collaborate on their electricity priorities. This consists of focusing on a broad set of priorities including ensuring that electricity remains affordable for Canadians, transitioning to cleaner forms of energy, facilitating the export of clean hydroelectricity to the US, and dealing with growing problems like cyber threats and copper wire theft.

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. Tom Mulcair has committed to meet with the Provincial Premiers twice a year to consult and negotiate important agreements and to discuss provincial priorities like a Canadian Energy Strategy. It was extremely disappointing that Stephen Harper refused to attend previous meetings to create a Canadian energy strategy. We need a leader that will be willing to implement that Canadian strategy at the federal level.

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?

Canada's NDP government will rebuild public trust by seeking Canadians' input on development projects that impact them. We will also end the Conservatives' arbitrary limits on public participation in project reviews. We recognize the need for an approach that ensures public safety, protects the environment, and respects the rights of First Nations. We will review ways to make the process timelier and coordinated with other jurisdictions all while ensuring that projects are safe and sustainable.

How would your Government support electricity infrastructure renewal and encourage investment in clean energy technologies?

Tom Mulcair and the NDP will make it easier for Canadians to invest up to \$4.5 billion over 4 years in government-backed Green Bonds to adapt our economy for a cleaner future. Green Bonds could finance enough renewable energy to power the equivalent of 2 million homes in

Canada when leveraged with funding from utilities and other levels of government. Green Bonds will also be invested in energy efficiency measures to retrofit our industries, decontaminate soil or finance the adoption of clean technologies. The NDP will also introduce a home energy retrofit program that will retrofit 50,000 homes and 15,000 apartment units over the first 4 years to lower energy bills and create thousands of jobs. The NDP will invest in clean technologies and innovative solutions at the local level by investing \$150 million in the Green Municipal Fund managed by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

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

Tom Mulcair has announced that he would implement an innovation tax credit that will allow companies to deduct capital expenditures in R&D. We will invest in sector specific innovation strategies in the auto, aerospace and forestry sectors that will leverage hundreds of millions in private investment in innovation and R&D.

We will restore the independence of Canada's granting agencies and respect their status as arm's length government agencies to ensure the best research gets funded. The NDP will maintain the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to help Canadian universities compete globally, and support researchers in post-secondary education institutions – including universities, colleges and polytechnics – with a total investment of \$105 million in new funds over five years. We will restore the long-form census, make government data open and available by default, in a useable format to assist researchers and businesses across Canada.

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

Canadians will be looking for a party that can grow the economy while protecting the environment, and one of the ways to do that will be to expand the adoption of clean energy across Canada. Renewable options and expanding the electricity grid can reduce energy costs compared to flown-in diesel. It's healthier for our communities and cleaner for the environment. Tom Mulcair has announced that the NDP will improve energy security and reduce pollution in over 25 northern and remote communities by investing \$100 million in small-scale hydro, wind, geothermal, biomass and solar in order to reduce dependence on diesel.

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 work closely with Canada's provinces and territories on their energy issues and priorities. When it comes to connecting northern communities to the electrical grid, we need to look at the total costs and benefits to determine a locally-appropriate approach. That could mean expanding grids or investing in independent grids and energy self-sufficient communities. It's clear that for Canada to succeed in a clean energy future we will need to support clean energy production, improve energy efficiency in our communities and help grow the next generation of clean technologies and business opportunities for Canadians.

How would your Government provide leadership on cyber security?

Conservatives have made little progress when it comes to improving cybersecurity and protecting the country's critical infrastructure. The Auditor General has found gaps in the Conservative approach and it's clear that Canada can do better to protect our infrastructure from foreign online attacks. Just last year a breach during the Heartbleed virus leaked the tax information of 900 Canadians. The NDP will bring principled leadership on this file. We need better coordination between our country's plan to respond to threats and the Federal Government's overall Federal Emergency Response Plan. We need to make sure that departments and agencies are using the government's secure network, and we need to continue investing in upgrading IT security to withstand future attacks.

What actions would your government take to ensure that critical infrastructure owners and operators are investing sufficiently to protect critical cyber assets?

We need an approach that will partner to protect critical infrastructure, monitor cyber threats and better protect government information systems. Building partnerships with the provinces and territories and with the private sector will help protect Canada. Industry Canada needs to bring groups together from various sectors including telecommunications, broadcasters, navigation, and identity management in order to share information and provide support tools to respond to threats.

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, the agency charged with helping critical infrastructure and keeping Canadians cyber safe?

The Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre has a critical role to play in support of promoting security and resilience in Canadian information systems. An NDP Government will ensure that CCIRC has the resources they need to prepare for and mitigate cyber events, provide technical advice to respond to and recover from targeted attacks along with facilitating information sharing and collaboration.

How would your Government approach this issue?

We will work with Canadian and international partners to address cyber security concerns. It will be important to collaborate closely with critical infrastructure organizations and provincial, territorial and municipal governments.

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

We will proceed with an approach based on best-practices, federal investment into key security measures, and collaboration with partners and other levels of government. We can better monitor threats by implementing more timely information sharing. We will make sure that an interdepartmental action plan guides the Federal Government's implementation and progress.

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

Theft of copper from electrical facilities is a growing problem in our communities. The NDP is in favour of taking action to better protect public safety. That's why NDP MP Randall Garrison brought forward his Private Member's Bill C-609 that would amend the Criminal Code to make those guilty of copper theft liable for all the damage caused and not just the value of the wire or the pipe. Copper theft puts at risk, not only the safety of those involved in the theft, but also the safety of the first responders, utility workers and local residents.

Would your government introduce a specific target for integrating EV's in the federal vehicle fleet?

Canada can no longer afford to stand on the sidelines when it comes to tackling catastrophic climate change and transitioning to a cleaner, greener economy. Conservatives aren't adopting clean technologies, energy efficiency or green procurement policies at the federal level that would support Canadian companies, improve productivity and create new jobs. The NDP will create targets for the electrification of federal vehicle fleets and strengthen Canada's green procurement policy to reduce long-term fuel and maintenance costs. We will also install 150 electric car charging stations on federal properties across Canada.

What would those targets be, and under what timeline?

The vast majority of Canadians have called for the federal government to take a leading role in fighting climate change and transitioning Canada to a cleaner economy: Stephen Harper has refused. The NDP will review current vehicle fleets to determine how quickly a switch to EV can occur. We have a commitment to reduce Canada's carbon emissions 34% by 2025/30, and 80% by 2050. The electrification of federal fleets would occur within that timeframe. We want to see Canadian vehicle manufacturers have the opportunity to supply the needs of the Government of Canada and will work to encourage the production of new EV in Canada.