

INDUSTRY

01. Canadian Nuclear Innovation

Recommendation

That the federal government work with provincial and territorial governments to:

1. Through its Energy, Research and Innovation and Economic Development ministries and the Canadian nuclear industry leaders, establish a joint government - industry nuclear science, technology and innovation program. This program will ensure that Canada retain their leadership position in the global nuclear industry.

Adopted as amended

02. CanNor and Territorial Businesses

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Introduce the following enhancement/ changes to the application and approval process for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's (CanNor) Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) program:
 - a. Establish an advisory committee of business people in each territory/ region to identify opportunities to invest CanNor funding most effectively in private sector initiatives as a complement to its role in accepting applications on a reactive basis only.
 - b. Acknowledge within 5 business days the receipt of funding applications.
 - c. Follow up with a preliminary assessment of applications – including additional documentation required – within 10 business days after the original acknowledgement.
 - d. Communicate a final decision on applications within 90 workings days of receiving funding applications or provide an explanation to the applicant(s) of why this is not possible.
 - e. Approval at the territorial level of applications for funding less than or equal to \$100 thousand that meet the required criteria.
 - f. Provide detailed marketing/ communications requirements in its approval letters.

- g. Communicate its requirements with other partners, e.g., territorial governments, Crown Corporations.
2. Make SINED a permanent program, reviewing it after 5 years in order to provide planning certainty for CanNor and territorial businesses.
3. Establish an “ease of access to CanNor’s offices and personnel” as a performance standard for the agency.
4. Mandate CanNor to provide access to information on the variety of sources of capital available to business enterprises and entrepreneurs. This information is to include matching sources of capital to business lifecycle, stage of commercialization and ability to provide required financing information to capital providers. Capital providers would include, but not be limited to: government agencies and programs (both federally and territorially), the Business Development Bank of Canada, private banking institutions, credit unions, alternative financing providers, venture capital, angel investors and private equity.

Adopted as amended

03. Capitalizing on Growth Opportunities in Canadian Auto Parts Manufacturing

Recommendations:

That the federal government:

1. Expand export opportunities for Canadian auto parts manufacturers through international trade agreements;
2. Eliminate regulatory duplication and overlap particularly in relation to the importation of machinery from jurisdictions with effective environmental and safety regimes;
3. Maintain programs for assisting auto manufacturers on R&D activities to meet the changing requirements of domestic and international assemblers.
4. Direct Ray Tanguay, Canada/Ontario Auto Adviser, to advise the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of his strategic plan within 6 months.

Adopted as amended

04. Counteracting the Growing Productivity Gap: Call for the Public Debate

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Within the next 18 months, develop a long-term, comprehensive productivity strategy that will ensure Canada becomes one of the top five nations for competitiveness in the World Economic Forum rankings.
2. Implement the recommendations of the federal government's own expert panel, which created a framework for action in 2011 that speaks to R & D funding so that Canada can compete on equal terms with the most innovative economies in the world, based on the GII Index 2014.
3. Focus on building global centres of research excellence, better commercialization of research efforts to create jobs and wealth, better models of business-university partnerships, and better market-based means of financing the application of innovation.

Adopted as amended

05. Developing a National Bioeconomy Strategy

Recommendations

That the Federal Government:

1. Develop a national bioeconomy strategy that builds from the best existing models with appropriate support, federally and provincially
2. Recognize that universities, colleges and federal laboratories play a vital role in building a long term bioeconomy and provide them support for discovery research.
3. Provide appropriate support to attract new businesses in the bioeconomy to Canada including the development of bioeconomy clusters throughout Canada.

Adopted as amended

07. Financial Protection for Canada's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Industry

Recommendation

That the federal government create and implement a limited statutory deemed trust in the first legislative session after the 2015 election that provides financial protection for produce sellers in Canada in the event of bankruptcies. The assets available to trust creditors would be limited specifically to produce accounts receivable, and any cash and inventory from the sale of the produce.

Adopted as amended

08. Increasing Technology and Productivity in Canadian Food Manufacturing

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Continue to support innovation and productivity in food manufacturing through programs such as the Accelerated Capital Cost Allowance;
2. Work collaboratively with all relevant inspection agencies to provide a food safety regulatory system that is consistent with competing jurisdictions.

Adopted

09. Restoring Business Competitiveness to Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation

Recommendations

That the federal government make the following reforms to CASL in order to prevent this legislation from putting Canadian businesses at a competitive disadvantage:

1. Add in a new form of implied consent, recognizing the concept of inferred consent used in the Australian model that allows communication between parties where there is a reasonable expectation of receiving commercial messages and without time limits.
2. As a result of the amendment to PIPEDA in bill S4 , recognize all consents that would be recognized as valid under the standards for consents in PIPEDA
3. Clarify in regulation that two connected people or businesses on an existing social network (eg. Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.) are deemed to have implied consent without time limits.
4. Remove the "Right of Action" from CASL. While individuals should still have the right to report inappropriate CEMs to federal regulatory bodies, they should not have the right to sue senders in the civil court system.

Adopted

10. Strengthen the Knowledge-Based Economy

Recommendation

That the federal government extend flow-through shares incentives to Canada's biotechnology industry.

Adopted

11. Support Biotech in Agriculture

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Encourage increased science-based communication and education of genetic engineering in agriculture when establishing relevant policies, regulations, and communications.
2. Support Health Canada's stance that has declared Genetically Modified Organism foods are safe for consumption when developing relevant food policies, regulations and communications on a case by case basis.
3. Continue to support independent research of genetic engineering in agriculture.

Adopted as amended

12. Timely, Reliable, Comparable Government Data for Canada's Businesses

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Continue its efforts to collect and present defensible data in a centrally-accessible, consistently formatted manner.
2. Continue working with the provinces/territories and municipalities to release data that is standardized, open formats, at little to no cost and never more than cost recovery, and without restrictions
3. Ensure that Statistics Canada has the ability to deliver data that is timely and reliable to meet Canadian business needs
4. Communicate the representation of private sector, municipalities and NGOs on Statistics Canada's advisory committees, the process for membership rotation and how stakeholders can identify their interest in participating.

Adopted as amended

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

13. Canada Border Services Agency - Customs & Immigration Programs

Recommendations

That the federal government and CBSA:

1. Move immediately to remove the discriminatory cost recovery mechanism for Customs and Immigration services and provide these services on the same basis as they are provided in other areas of the country and at the same cost to Canadians;
2. Where new or expanded services are required in any region of Canada, the provision of such services should meet a legitimate business case;
3. Add an on-call service component to all airports designated as an Airport of Entry;
4. Post all its fee schedules, including on-call services, on its website; and
5. Revise contract agreements with Airports to allow the proper billing to the plane operator in order to recover all the costs related to on-call services or other services supplied by the CBSA for the user.

Adopted

14. Collection of Duty and Taxes at Canada/US Border

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Examine current policies and protocols to identify efficiencies or additional resource commitments that could enable the consistent collection of prescribed duties and taxes with no effect on the free flow of commercial traffic.
2. Research implementation of a self-reporting model (similar to Nexus) whereby the reporting onus will be placed on the individual, and Border Personnel will continue to be responsible for performing random checks.
3. Increase penalties and restrictions whereby non-compliant residents will incur penalties that are sufficiently onerous to deter abuse of the process and offset costs of enforcement, and where abusers of a self-reporting model would become ineligible.

Adopted

15. Elimination of Border Re-Inspections & Associated Fees on Canadian Meat Exports into USA

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Support the efforts of the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) in its initiative to harmonize regulatory requirements and practices on meat and other trade between Canada and the United States of America.
2. Ensure that all re-inspections of Canadian meats exported to the United States of America only be conducted at United States Department of Agriculture sanctioned processing facilities.
3. Eliminate current border re-inspection fees on Canadian meats exported into the United States of America.

Adopted

16. Increasing Canadian Agri-Food Exports

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Conclude and implement an ambitious TPP that includes competitive access for Canadian agri-food products.
2. Increase resources to expedite Canada's role in negotiations and ratification of the multilateral TPP agreement.

Adopted

17. Next Steps for Canada's Trade Relationship with the Asia-Pacific

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Take a leading role in concluding and implementing an ambitious TPP that includes:
 - a. Comprehensive market access for goods and services, as well as realistic rules of origin.
 - b. High-standard rules to facilitate cross-border data flows and the movement of business people, improve regulatory transparency and strengthen investment and intellectual property protection.
2. Expand bilateral trade and investment agreements in Asia by:
 - a. Concluding joint feasibility studies on the costs, benefits and potential structure of FTAs with China and the Philippines.
 - b. Concluding and implementing the Canada-India CEPA and FIPA.
 - c. Negotiating FIPAs with Taiwan and Macau.
3. Improve the local business climate for Canadian companies by:
 - a. Ensuring commercially meaningful regulatory outcomes from bilateral sector committees and expanding them to include priority economies in ASEAN.
 - b. Targeting development aid to help local governments enact and enforce best practice laws and regulations in areas such as

taxation, financial supervision, workplace health and safety, environment and consumer protection.

4. Continue to improve the effectiveness of Canada's trade promotion strategies and programs by:
 - a. Streamlining access to federal and provincial/territorial trade promotion services.
 - b. Creating a forward planning committee to coordinate with provincial/territorial governments on delegations and strategic foreign investment and export opportunities.
 - c. Ensuring that federal trade officials have adequate resources and authority to negotiate, monitor and enforce the results of trade agreements, as well as provide timely, effective service to clients at home and abroad.
5. Facilitate Canadian participation in regional infrastructure projects by:
 - a. Working with local governments to develop private-public-partnership models.
 - b. Encouraging collaboration between Export Development Canada and regional financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Adopted as amended

18. Renewing the Canada-U.S. Trade Relationship

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Improve the movement of people and goods across all modes by fully resourcing and implementing programs identified by the Beyond the Border initiative.
2. Improve stakeholder consultation throughout the agenda-setting and tracking process of the Canada-U.S. Regulatory Cooperation Council.
3. Work with the U.S. to realize an ambitious and comprehensive TPP agreement that lays the foundation for the North American trade with Asia, including high standards of market access and intellectual property protection, as well as new disciplines related to cross-border data flows and state-owned enterprises.
4. Through the TPP or parallel bilateral arrangements, address Buy America rules and expand the list of qualified professionals eligible temporary entry and business visas under the North American Free Trade Agreement.
5. Restore and institutionalize the annual North American Leadership Summit, creating issue or sector-based working groups on topics such as energy and trade policy.

Adopted as amended

HUMAN RESOURCES

19. Address Issues in Foreign Worker Programs

Recommendations

That the federal government and the provincial/territorial governments work together to:

1. Use the Temporary Foreign Worker Program as a true temporary worker program for immediate shortages while enabling foreign workers to use other immigration programs for permanent residency.
2. Develop permanent solutions to chronic labour shortages by expanding pathways to permanent residency, including negotiating with the federal government to expand the Canadian Experience Class to give low- and semi-skilled temporary foreign workers the right to apply for permanent residency after three years of work experience in Canada, based on employer recommendations, satisfactory background check, appropriate prior experience in country of origin and minimum language proficiency requirements.
3. Implement a process by which employers are notified of any changes to processes or information utilized in the calculation and submission of their initial LMIA application, permitting employers the opportunity to update applications and avoid costly delays, particularly in the case of prevailing wage rates.
4. Improve processing efficiencies by recommending that the responsible department create a temporary foreign worker (TFW) industry specific labour pool where semi-skilled or skilled TFWs who

have been terminated without cause, can register with an open work permit, from where other qualified industry specific employers from across Canada have the opportunity to recruit from this “pool.”

5. Review National Occupation Classification (NOC) Code processes in all provinces, and establish flexible, responsive practices that incorporate rural, urban and regional labour market needs.
6. Amend the advertising criteria for LMIAs to allow companies from the same sector to jointly advertise rather than as individual organizations.

Adopted as amended

20. Citizenship and Immigration Canada Regional Settlement

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of offering immigration services in local communities that faced CIC closures. This analysis should include different options such as transferring in experienced staff to local communities to be able to take on this role, hiring CIC service staff at existing government buildings to assisting newcomers or re-opening select or target offices based on the results of the research.
2. Ensure that there is a regional strategy to apply fairly the resources required to meet settlement needs for newcomers in all regions of the country.
3. Take action to include a national vision and strategy aimed at increasing immigration to rural and smaller cities across the country by 2017.

Adopted as amended

22. Creating Pan-Canadian Training and Certification Standards

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. In concert with provinces/territories, continue to aggressively migrate towards developing pan-Canadian training standards for various occupations where certification is required.
2. Address any unique geographical requirements for an occupation, by treating them as endorsements over and above the Pan-Canadian training and certification standards.
3. Encourage individual provinces to take a lead in developing training and certification standards for a particular occupation. There would need to be a definitive time-line and a speedy resolution method to manage any dissenting viewpoints.

Adopted

23. Federal Support for Transition in the Food Processing Industry

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Complete a comprehensive labour market analysis of the industry and adjust programs and policies to put Canadians first while recognizing labour market conditions in rural agri-food economies and acknowledging the inclusion of many seasonal workers on EI in calculating local unemployment statistics.
2. Freeze the cap on TFWs working at processing plants at 30% for 4 years to allow for investment in technology and expansion of local recruiting programs.
3. Implement a system of sliding scale application fees for companies requesting TFWs under the same LMIA assessment to reduce the cost of filling multiple identical positions.
4. Recognize the sector as falling under the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Workforce Action Plan and/or include seafood on the National Commodities List, qualifying TFWs for comparable treatment under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP).
5. Develop programs to assist with necessary increases in staffing envisaged under a CETA tariff reduction environment.
6. Freely share population and EI data with provinces to assist in identifying potential workers for recruiting and training.
7. Create sector policies designed to facilitate extended residency in Canada by:

- a. Reducing the cumulative duration restrictions for workers staying in Canada for less than 8 months,
- b. Allowing 4 years to meet the requirements for provincial nominee programs or permanent residency requirements, or
- c. Adjusting NOC code classification for processing plant workers in order to avoid the restrictions placed on low skilled temporary foreign workers.

Adopted

24. Make Significant Changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP)

Recommendations

That the government make significant changes to the TFWP for trades and occupations, industries and districts facing labour shortages, including:

1. Simplifying the processing of applications and LMIA's for trades and professions in high demand while taking into account the varied situations in different labour markets in Canada;
2. Exempting companies engaged in workforce development from the obligation to provide transition plans for trades and professions experiencing chronic shortages;
3. Permit the application process for low wage temporary foreign worker positions in regions where there is full employment (ie. less than 6% unemployment) located in large economic regions as defined by Statistics Canada and used in the Temporary Foreign Worker program.

4. Include transparency in requirements and guidelines.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

25. Supporting Canadian Students' Transition to Employment Through Work Placements

Recommendation

That the federal government provide financial incentives to employers to offer paid work-integrated learning placements to students during post-secondary education, giving special consideration to small and medium-sized businesses and to those who have not previously offered work placements.

Adopted

SOCIAL POLICY

26. Addressing the Pension Issue – Enhancing the Canadian Pension Plan

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Look to improve the CPP by allowing employees to contribute higher amounts to their CPP, above their 4.95% contribution up to a maximum of 6.85%;
2. Direct the appropriate department and/or agencies to create or commission demographic forecasts that list the in-demand groups who will be most affected by any enhancement to ensure no negative impact to private business.

Adopted

SPECIAL ISSUES

28. Alignment of Federal and Provincial Liens Policies

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Immediately allow for the removal of federal liens against a property by establishing and maintaining lien policies that are in alignment with those of provincial/territorial governments.
2. Work collaboratively with provincial/territorial governments to establish and maintain a nationally consistent, coordinated approach to removing Crown liens and tax arrears on qualified properties.

Adopted

29. Developing a National Urban Policy for Canadian Cities

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Develop, in co-operation with the provinces and territories, a long-term National Urban Policy for Canadian Cities and Municipalities that:
 - a. Creates a consistent and predictable long term public infrastructure funding stream for municipalities.
 - b. Prioritizes multi-modal goods movement infrastructure funding that enhances the ability of Canadian Municipalities to compete in the Global Supply Chain and Intranationally.
 - c. Recognizes and supports the role played by Municipalities in the settlement of Immigrants.
 - d. Supports businesses to compete and collaborate with their counterparts in Global Cities.
 - e. Support the development of globally competitive regional economic clusters in municipalities.

Adopted as amended

FINANCE AND TAXATION

30. Canada Revenue Agency Impact on Small Business

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Instill flexibilities into Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) systems to allow frontline staff to manage communications amongst CRA streams on behalf of small business owners, and take initiative to resolve small businesses' issues in a timely fashion, maintaining a client-oriented, customer-service approach.
2. Assign a case officer, with the appropriate training, to small business files to make compliance faster, cheaper, and simpler.
3. Instruct the CRA to correct and respond regarding CRA errors within 30 days of notification by the taxpayer or taxpayer's representative.
4. Hold the CRA accountable for its actions and decisions by implementing open government practices, and by correcting and corresponding regarding CRA errors within 30 days of notification by the taxpayer or taxpayer's representative.

Adopted

31. Fair Tax Process for Small Business

Recommendation

That the federal government:

Review the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA's) internal policies for small business and implement common administrative law practices into its procedures so that there is assistance for small business help small business to resolve conflicts with the CRA with the protection of due process.

Adopted as amended

32. Federal Fiscal Policy

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Re: Debt Management

- a. Annually target for balanced (or conditions permitting, surplus) budgets subject to recessionary conditions indicating a requirement for deficit spending to stimulate economic activity;
- b. Achieve and maintain a debt-to-GDP ratio below 30 per cent with financial contributions to debt reduction as necessary to sustain that position;

2. Re: Program Spending

- a. Confine program spending to core areas of federal responsibility and limit growth in program spending to a maximum of national population growth plus inflation;
- b. Continue to examine new ways to reduce costs, modernize how government works and ensure value for taxpayers' money, including in the areas of service delivery, corporate asset management, travel and administrative systems;

3. Re: Tax Policy

- a. Ensure that Canada's tax system is as neutral, simple, efficient, and fair as possible;

- b. Avoid unnecessary complications to tax legislation by rigorously reviewing any addition of special provisions and targeted tax benefits;
- c. Undertake a comprehensive review of taxing statutes with the objective of identifying and ensuring the implementation of new ways and means to simplify tax legislation, reduce the complexity of Canada's tax system and decrease compliance costs. The review should include an examination of the hundreds of exemptions, deductions, rebates, deferrals and/or credits that are part of the federal tax system to determine which ones are inefficient or wasteful and can be eliminated; and
- d. Reduce Canada's heavy reliance on more damaging, high-cost sources of taxes, namely income and profit taxes, and rely more on consumption-based taxes, like the GST/HST in combination with a multiyear plan to reduce personal income tax rates with an immediate focus on reducing marginal tax rates.

Adopted

33. Increasing Rental Inventory Through Fair Tax Treatment

Recommendations

That, when fiscal conditions allow, the federal government:

1. Enact deferral of capital gains tax on the sale of residential rental and mixed-use property, when the proceeds of sales are reinvested within a twelve-month period into other residential rental and/ or mixed-use property investments;
2. Defer the recapturing of the value of depreciated capital cost allowances on residential rental and mixed-use property;
3. Include rental income under the definition of “active business income” for CCPCs in the CITA legislation;
4. Allow a 100 per cent refund of GST paid by businesses investing in rental housing; and,
5. Zero-rate rental housing operations to allow landlords to claim ITCs on their expenses.

Adopted as amended

34. International Online Sales: An Important Shortfall for Governments

Recommendations

That the federal government:

4. Impose the consumption tax system to foreign companies selling digital products and services to Canadian consumers, specifically that companies:
 - a. Register with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA);
 - b. Collect the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST/QST) from Canadian clients;
 - c. Remit the revenues from these taxes to the proper tax authorities.
5. Intensify its efforts as part of ongoing OECD work on the collection of the following tax and duties:
 - a. Sales taxes on Internet transactions by suppliers in foreign countries;
 - b. Income taxes on companies tied to electronic commerce.

Adopted

35. Non-Residents Performing Services in Canada Policy – Waivers from Withholding Obligations Under Regulations 105 and 102

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Adopt a Regulation 105 procedure similar to the United States, where a resident of a tax treaty country can be exempted from the withholding tax on services without advance approval from a tax authority if they provide a signed information form confirming tax treaty benefits.
2. Improve the Regulation 102 proposals by replacing the CRA advanced approval (certification) of qualified non-resident employers with a signed information form confirming tax treaty benefits, while also eliminating the T4 reporting requirement for qualified non-resident employees.

Adopted

36. Road Travel Rebate Incentive Program for Increased Tourism Revenue

Recommendations:

That the Federal Government:

1. Launch a 3-year pilot project for a Road Travel Rebate Incentive Program that would make international visitors eligible for a rebate of 5% GST on goods purchased in Canada;
2. Authorize ground-based Duty Free operators to process these rebates, and track the data necessary for assessing the program's costs and benefits.

Adopted as amended

37. Simplification of the Taxing Statutes

Recommendation

That the federal government:

1. Immediately undertake a comprehensive review of taxing statutes with the objective of identifying, recommending and ensuring the implementation of ways and means to simplify tax legislation, reduce compliance costs and ensure Canada's tax system is neutral, simple, efficient and as fair as possible.
2. Establish a committee to continuously monitor changes and publicly report progress at least annually.

Adopted as amended

38. Strengthening Canada's Workforce through Tax Indexing

Recommendation

That the federal government apply indexing to all exemptions, deductions and contribution limits applicable in the *Tax Act* so Canadians and businesses are not unfairly taxed.

Adopted

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

39. Accelerating Domestic Styrofoam Reuse and Remanufacture for Environmental and Economic Gain

Recommendations

That the federal government work with provinces and territories to:

1. Actively promote the diversion of waste Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) from landfills.
2. Engage with Canadian plastics industry companies and institutions and provide incentives to stimulate research into and the development of high value made-in-Canada products from recycled EPS.
3. Supports the research and development of cost-effective mechanisms to decontaminate EPS for the purpose of recycling and re-use.

Adopted

40. Clean Technology and the Renewable Energy Sector in Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Develop, expand and implement plans to make Canada a global leader in the sustainable technology and energy sectors
2. Work with the business community, provinces/territories and international institutions and governments to ensure that individual jurisdiction carbon pricing programs work toward a common target for emissions reductions.

Adopted as amended

41. Does Our Water Abundance Mask a Potential Challenge? The Need for a National Water Framework

Recommendations

That the federal government works with the provinces and territories to:

1. Commission new research into water rights management the sustainability of Canadian water resources, the potential for national water shortages and the potential impact on Canadian businesses and make this research and any subsequent resources or tools publicly available.
2. Craft a national water framework in partnership with the provinces and territories that consolidates and updates existing legislation and strategies, while respecting any existing international, interprovincial or interterritorial agreements, and ensures Canadians across the country and all levels of government understand:
 - a. The water rights management framework;
 - b. The location and abundance of our current water resources;
 - c. How water is used and managed (currently and in the future) for the benefit of both human and environmental needs;
 - d. The potential impact of climate change and anthropogenic activities on our water resources;
 - e. The replenishment rate and returning quality of major water resources; and
 - f. How to properly manage water resources to ensure it remains a sustainable resource for Canadians in the future.

3. Incorporate consultations with First Nations, Inuit and Métis groups, businesses and business organizations, and the public into the creation of such a national water framework.

Adopted as amended

42. Energy Productivity: A Win-win for Canada's Economy and Environment

Recommendations

That the federal government work with provinces and territories to:

1. Identify the means for overcoming the economic and environmental barriers of increased energy productivity/efficiency to business and promote energy efficiency measures.
2. Research and adopt across Canada the best available science to measure barriers, record and implement energy productivity and efficiencies..

Adopted as amended

43. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction through Economic Instruments

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Adopt an approach and mechanisms to combat climate change in order to establish and reach a GHG emission reduction target by 2050.
2. Work with the provinces and territories to:
 - a. Adopt carbon pricing mechanisms that will help realize Canada's international commitments to reduce GHG emissions. The selection of these mechanisms must take into consideration the actions of competitor jurisdictions and the impact on Canada's global competitiveness.
 - b. Ensure revenue collected from carbon pricing mechanisms directly facilitate businesses' transition to a lower carbon economy – and should not go into general revenues. Further, the allocation of that revenue should be objective and transparent.
 - c. Adopt policy instruments that sufficiently price the negative externalities associated with greenhouse gas emissions to achieve this target.

Adopted as Amended

44. Preserving Economic Benefits Under the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Undertake consultations with Aboriginal groups and communities in order to ensure that Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (ESTMA) reporting requirements are appropriate and that Aboriginal interests are properly considered.
2. Undertake consultations with extractive industries to ensure that the process for reporting payments to Aboriginal communities under the ESTMA is not duplicative or unduly cumbersome, and that it does not contravene existing non-disclosure agreements.
3. Guarantee that federal funding for Aboriginal communities will not be reduced in response to financial disclosures made under the ESTMA, ensuring that those communities will be funded appropriately as per their needs and prior federal obligations and commitments, regardless of any investments made by third parties engaged in resource extraction.

Adopted

45. Proposed Resolution in Support of TransCanada's Energy East Project

Recommendation

That the federal government

1. Create favourable conditions for the Energy East project to move forward, as the project will have significant economic benefits for Canada.

Adopted as amended

47. Support Future Mineral Exploration and Mining in Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Make the 15% Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) permanent:
and,
2. Create a new and enhanced 25% Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) for projects in locations more than 50 kilometres from a supply route.

Adopted

48. Supporting Canada to Become a Leader in Global Mining Innovation

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Provide funding for mining innovation projects that go beyond academic research exclusively and include those aspects that incorporate mining industry, supply & service companies and cross-sector industries to support implementation and commercialization requirements.
2. Increase funding ratios and manage funding flows as appropriate based on the size and timeframe of innovation projects.
3. Facilitate and support co-ordination and collaboration between research and innovation organizations, funding bodies and business organizations to meet Canadian and global mining innovation needs.

Adopted

Transportation and Infrastructure

50. Harmonizing Transportation of Oversized Shipments Across Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government continue to strengthen the 1995 Agreement on Internal Trade, by working with the provinces and territories through the Committee on Internal Trade to establish a Task Force that will work to:

1. Harmonize width, height and weight standards for the transportation of over-dimensional freight;
2. Identify choke points and recommend improvements to eventually increase size envelope and weight limits according to a single standard;
3. Consult manufacturers, resource companies and shipping source jurisdictions in the planning phase to promote designs that can be tailored to the safe transportation of their products; and,
4. Work with all levels of government to provide appropriate funding, within existing infrastructure programs and mechanisms, to ensure Over Dimensional Freight barriers are eliminated.

Adopted

51. Moving the Goods: Transportation of Canada's Natural Resources

Recommendations

That the federal government work with all levels of government and relevant stakeholders to:

1. Develop a long-term, strategic plan and defined corridors for Canada's trade enabling infrastructure. This plan should foster close partnership with the private sector, promote cost benefit analyses of investments and aim to position Canada as a world leader in trade infrastructure and logistics.
2. Mitigate the inherent risk associated with the efficient movement of resources and related supply chain hazardous materials by harmonizing transportation regulations with the United States and adopting best practices, policies, processes and technologies for HAZMAT-related tracing and emergency response.
3. Develop a national risk assessment strategy for Canadian ports to ensure that any shortcomings in existing policies are addressed and adequately communicated to the public.
4. Implement recommendations presented by the Tanker Safety Panel, and any relevant recommendations made by the CTA Review Panel that improve transportation safety and response mechanisms.

Adopted as amended

52. Rail Service Issues in Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government work to:

1. Require railways to ensure and demonstrate consultation with the business community when railway actions result in service disruptions, reductions, closures or abandonments, and notification of Service Changes.

Adopted as amended

53. Regulating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Prior to implementing new regulations, consult with representatives from a wide range of industries that are currently using or plan to use unmanned aerial vehicles for commercial purposes.
2. Continue the Canadian Aviation Regulation Advisory Council's Unmanned Aircraft System Program Design Working Group after fulfilling its current mandate so that Canada's regulatory regime can continue to be responsive to evolving commercial circumstances.
3. Continue to work on technological solutions to eventually permit exemptions to the current line-of-site restrictions.

Adopted

54. Strategic Public Infrastructure for a Competitive Canada

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Increases, by at least 20 percent, the funds allocated through the 10-year Building Canada Plan.
2. Reviews global best practices in public infrastructure financing, and investigates the feasibility of introducing new public and private financing tools that deliver value for the money invested.
3. Ensures that investments in public infrastructure are targeted to projects that result in the largest net gains for the economy, and must include strategic investments in Canada's major economic hubs, gateways, and public transit systems.
4. Validates the effectiveness of P3 projects to ensure that all parties are able to efficiently manage those projects so that they result in a quality product that is delivered in a timely manner with a reasonable return on investment.
5. Provide stable, predictable and equitable financing in all projects, including advance notice of available funds, criteria and application process to ensure the projects needed have access to the funds available in a timely manner.

Adopted as amended

55. The Importance to the Economy of Expanded Oil Pipeline Infrastructure

Recommendations

That the federal government:

1. Continue to support a responsible framework for resource development that understands, assesses, mitigates, manages and monitors all economic, social and environmental impacts and benefits, including a world-class marine tanker safety regime with enhanced marine spill response capability, and a world-class terrestrial safety system.
2. Engage Chambers and other organizations in project pipeline construction communities to maximize opportunities for local businesses during construction and operation of all major projects, including increased opportunities for First Nations participation.

Adopted