



Green Budget Coalition's Updated Recommendations (March 2026)

*For Spring 2026 federal decisions
& for discussion and feedback in advance of GBC's final recommendations for Budget 2026*

Including recommendations supporting:

- Delivering on Canada's nature commitments
- Industrial carbon pricing
- Modern, resilient East-West electricity grid based on renewables
- Climate resilient housing
- Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies
- International climate and biodiversity finance
- Climate adaptation
- Chemicals Management Plan
- *and much more...*



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**Expected Lead
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(in rough order of
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This document will be available at www.greenbudget.ca. We expect the Green Budget Coalition’s final *Recommendations for Budget 2026* to be available, in both French and English, in early June 2026.

We much appreciate Astrid Hieblinger-Rempel and Samantha Ordaz Salgado’s efforts in compiling and refining this document.

Department and Agency Acronyms

AAFC: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	ECCC: Environment & Climate Change Canada	NRC: National Research Council Canada
CBSA: Canada Border Services Agency	ESDC: Employment & Social Development Canada	NRCan: National Resources Canada
CFIA: Canadian Food Inspection Agency	FIN: Finance Canada	PC: Parks Canada
CIB: Canada Infrastructure Bank	GAC: Global Affairs Canada	PCO: Privy Council Office
CIRNAC: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs	HC: Health Canada	PS: Public Safety Canada
CMHC: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	HICC: Housing, Infrastructure & Communities Canada	PSPC: Public Services and Procurement Canada
CWA: Canada Water Agency	ISC: Indigenous Services Canada	PMRA: Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency
DFO: Fisheries and Oceans Canada	ISED: Innovation, Science & Economic Development Canada	StatCan: Statistics Canada
	MPO: Major Projects Office	TC: Transport Canada

Introduction & Executive Summary

At this pivotal time in Canadian history, amidst economic and geopolitical uncertainty and new federal approaches and partnerships, it is critical to renew and strengthen existing funding to address the climate, nature and pollution crises, and to integrate these environmental priorities into Canada’s new economic strategies and investments.

Investments in climate and nature action, and reducing pollution, are crucial for success on the Prime Minister’s seven priorities, particularly for a strong Canadian economy, bringing down costs for Canadians, more affordable housing, and attracting the best talent, as well as for the success of the Climate Competitiveness Strategy.

Such investments are both economic necessities and moral imperatives, and could ensure Canada flourishes in the years ahead with dependable clean energy, energy efficient housing, climate resilience, treasured nature areas and biodiversity, healthy people, and reliable chemicals management.

Fires, floods, stronger storms, extreme heat, ecological disruption, dramatic loss of wildlife populations, a rapidly warming Arctic, and increasing chemical and other pollution are being felt in Canada and around the world. These cause widespread harm, particularly to low-income and vulnerable people, as well as huge economic costs to society as a whole. The climate crisis continues to accelerate, and Canada is positioned to warm at roughly twice the rate of global average, with the Arctic warming at almost four times. Science indicates that these and other impacts will intensify if climate change and ecosystem destruction remain unchecked.¹

At the same time, global efforts and investments to address these crises are expected to create many trillions of dollars in economic benefits, creating economic leaders for years to come. Canada must not be left behind.

Spring 2026 and the fall 2026 budget are prime opportunities for progress on these issues.

To help the federal government make best use of its limited resources, the Green Budget Coalition has utilized its expertise and years of research and discussions with government officials and Indigenous allies to develop this comprehensive set of timely budget and fiscal recommendations.

¹ See for example: the UN’s International Panel on Climate Change 2021 report, “AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policy Makers”, at https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf; the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) May 2019 report at <https://ipbes.net/global-assessment> ; <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/06/chemical-pollution-threat-comparable-climate-change-scientists-warn-novel-entities> ; <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>; and <https://www.arcticfocus.org/stories/arctic-is-warming-nearly-four-times-faster-than-the-rest-of-the-world-new-research/>

Recommendations include:

- Delivering on Canada’s nature commitments
- Industrial carbon pricing
- Modern, resilient East-West electricity grid based on renewables
- Climate resilient housing
- Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies
- International climate and biodiversity finance
- Climate adaptation
- Chemicals Management Plan
- *and many more...*

The Climate Competitiveness Strategy presents an opportunity to embed climate in economic plans, however further actions and implementation are needed to ensure emission reduction targets are met and that communities are resilient in the face of increasing climate impacts. Budget 2022 noted that \$125-140 billion needs to be invested in climate action per year in order for Canada to build a net-zero economy by 2050,² and recent analysis by the Canadian Climate Institute shows Canada is now off course on its climate targets, with more riding on fewer policies.³

Canada has demonstrated leadership in protecting and enhancing nature and biodiversity by adopting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in 2022, and then releasing Canada’s 2030 Nature Strategy as its implementation plan. Canada now has a broad suite of commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030; however, renewed and expanded funding is needed to fulfill them.

It is critical to maintain the government’s core capacity for environmental governance and environmental and climate science, programs, and policy. At the same time, further progress on funding, fiscal measures, and regulations is required.

For all new and ongoing programs, we emphasize the importance of effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure successful outcomes.

Canada must also strive to advance and embed climate, biodiversity, and environmental justice goals across government, using tools such as sustainable finance, net-zero industrial policy, climate and biodiversity conditions on funding and policy measures, and a national environmental justice strategy and screening tools.

Any new major projects offered federal support should be chosen, and then scoped, planned and regulated, to support progress on climate and biodiversity protection, considering options such as energy efficiency, priorities such as protected areas, ecosystem services, and restoration, and proceeding with the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples.

² Government of Canada “A Plan to Grow Our Economy and Make Life More Affordable”, Chart 3.1 (2022).
<https://budget.canada.ca/2022/pdf/budget-2022-en.pdf>

³ Canadian Climate Institute. “Canada off course for climate targets, with more riding on fewer policies: expert report”, (2026).
<https://climateinstitute.ca/news/canada-off-course-for-climate-targets/>

At the same time, Canada must take advantage of its important role and opportunity internationally to ensure middle powers maintain collective leadership on climate and nature, including in the development and expansion of trade and cooperation agreements, and for international climate and biodiversity finance.

Many of the recommendations in this document are relevant to the rights and authorities of Indigenous Peoples—First Nations, Inuit, and Métis—whose traditional territories and knowledge are integral to the achievement of Canada’s climate and conservation goals. These recommendations should be considered in the context of reconciliation, and pursued in a manner in keeping with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Implementing these Green Budget Coalition recommendations would lead to transformative progress in advancing enduring environmental, economic, and social prosperity for all peoples in Canada from coast to coast to coast.

We plan to discuss these updated recommendations with government officials and Indigenous allies in the coming weeks and then revise them before releasing our final *Recommendations for Budget 2026*, tentatively expected in early June 2026.

We would welcome advice and opportunities for discussion on how best to improve and implement these recommendations. Lead contacts are listed for each recommendation. You are also welcome to contact the Green Budget Coalition’s Manager, Andrew Van Iterson, at avaniterson@naturecanada.

Green Budget Coalition Core Focus Areas - Alignment with Prime Minister’s 7 Priorities⁴

	1. Establishing new relationship with US (& other middle powers)	2. One Canadian economy	3. Bringing down costs for Canadians	4. Making housing more affordable	5. Canadian sovereignty & safety (military, borders)	6. Attracting best talent in world	7. Spending less on government operations
Climate Competitiveness & Emissions Reduction	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Delivering on Canada’s nature commitments		✓				✓	
Climate adaptation	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Tackling pollution	✓					✓	✓
Sustainable agriculture	✓	✓	✓			✓	

⁴ <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2025/05/21/mandate-letter>; priority #1 was amended above to incorporate the PM's increased collaboration with other “middle powers”.



Who We Are

The Green Budget Coalition (GBC), founded in 1999, brings together twenty-one leading Canadian environmental and conservation organizations, which collectively have over one million Canadians as members, supporters, and volunteers.

Our Mission

The mission of the Green Budget Coalition is to present an analysis of the most pressing issues regarding environmental sustainability in Canada and to make a consolidated annual set of recommendations to the federal government regarding strategic fiscal and budgetary opportunities.

Our Vision

The Government of Canada contributes to securing and maintaining the environmental sustainability of Canada through appropriate investments in environmental programs, and through the adoption of appropriate policies related to taxation, pricing, and subsidies.

Objectives

- To bring together the collective expertise of leading Canadian organizations regarding the important environmental issues facing Canada;
- To prepare and promote prioritized recommendations annually to the federal government on policies, actions and programs whose implementation would advance environmental sustainability and which could be reflected in the federal budget; and
- To monitor federal budget decisions and spending estimates and to track Green Budget Coalition recommendations with a view to assessing the likely effect of budgetary and fiscal decisions on the environment and to evaluating the Green Budget Coalition’s impact on fiscal policy and budgetary actions.

Please see the back page for a list of the Green Budget Coalition's leadership.

The Green Budget Coalition sincerely thanks the Catherine Donnelly, Echo, Gosling, Ivey, McLean, Metcalf, Sitka, and Trottier Family Foundations for their generous financial support. The Green Budget Coalition’s efforts are funded by its members and these foundations.



The Gosling Foundation



RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding Indigenous climate and conservation leadership

The Green Budget Coalition encourages the federal government to advance Indigenous climate and conservation leadership by providing long term, sustainable and direct funding to Indigenous Peoples.⁵

Co-developed funding mechanisms, like the Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda, could help ensure that priority areas such as climate change mitigation, adaptation, nature conservation and restoration, emergency management, health and well-being, and economic development are delivered in a way that respects UNDRIP and advances the needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

See also, elsewhere in this document:

- *A modern, resilient East-West electricity grid based on renewables*
- *Climate resilient housing*
- *Sustainable career paths for workers in a rapidly changing world*
- *Collective transportation solutions to connect Canadians*
- *Marine shipping*
- *Climate adaptation*
- *Canada's international climate and biodiversity finance contributions*
- *Nature-positive agriculture*
- *Combating plastic pollution*
- *National Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism Strategy*
- *Delivering on nature commitments – protect and restore nature to catalyze a conservation economy*
- *Managing ocean fisheries*
- *Freshwater management*

⁵ Referring to First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, organizations, and/or communities across Canada.
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1A) Climate Competitiveness - Nominal-Cost Fiscal Measures

Carbon pricing

Budget 2026 should reaffirm the role of industrial carbon pricing. Widely acknowledged as the most efficient way to drive industrial decarbonization and competitiveness, industrial carbon pricing's importance has now increased with the elimination of the fuel levy and other key planks in the raft of federal climate policy.

Recommendations [ECCC, FIN, NRCan]:

The Green Budget Coalition recommends that the federal government use the 2026 pricing review to strengthen industrial carbon pricing, elaborating a benchmark for equivalence that requires provincial and territorial regimes to achieve a minimum price in credit markets (effective carbon price).

Additionally, at the level of the federal backstop, the government should enunciate a strong and rising post-2030 price trajectory, giving predictability, longevity, and force to the price incentives offered. These results are essential to remedy inadequate policy stringency that threatens the long-term integrity of credit markets and undermines business cases for low-carbon projects.

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Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies

Fossil fuel subsidies distort markets. They lower the cost of producing fossil fuels and dampen the market signal of carbon-pricing. By offering financial incentives and signaling government priorities, production subsidies also de-risk new fossil fuel development that may not otherwise be built. This serves to slow the energy transition and elevate stranded assets risk by locking in high-carbon investment and tilting the field against renewables, electrification, and clean energy.

Fossil fuel subsidy reform frees up fiscal space, ensures the private sector bears the risk of fossil fuel development, and contributes to lower greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024, Canadian governments provided CAD 3.2 billion in fossil fuel subsidies⁶ with billions more committed to future tax measures.

Canada has demonstrated international leadership by publishing the Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies (IFFS) Framework, committing to end international public finance for fossil fuel subsidies, and joining the Coalition on Phasing out Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies. However, it continues to lag in transparently implementing the IFFS framework and in Budget 2025 reversed course by introducing new fossil fuel subsidies. The Government of Canada needs to work proactively to uphold its existing policies and international commitments.

Recommendations:

- 1) Do not introduce new subsidies that contravene the IFFS Framework, and develop an Action Plan to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies by 2030, beginning with production subsidies. [FIN, ECCC]
- 2) Ensure centralized and transparent reporting for all fossil fuel subsidies and public financing. [FIN, ECCC, PMO, PCO, NRCan, ISED]
 - a) Publish the results of Canada’s long-overdue subsidies self-review, including a full inventory of all federal fossil fuel tax and non-tax subsidies and supports, and analysis for any deemed as ‘efficient’. [FIN, ECCC]

- b) Create a central mechanism for transparency, accountability, and enforcement of policies to ensure that they are upheld across departments. [FIN, ECCC]
 - c) Direct public financial institutions (PFIs) to increase transparency by publishing transaction-level data.
- 3) Publish a policy to phase out domestic public financing for fossil fuels. [FIN, ECCC]

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⁶ OECD & IISD, “Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker”.
<https://fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org/country/>

Sustainable finance: aligning Canada’s financial system with climate and biodiversity commitments

Canada’s Budget 2026 must implement policies that not only spur more investment in Canada, but also ensure smarter investment that protects productivity, people, and the planet. Canadian industries, commodities, and natural resources are all threatened by the impact of a warming and more extreme climate. The average Canadian is experiencing rising home insurance costs, affordability pressures, and inflation due to extreme heat and weather events.

Despite political headwinds, most global companies remain committed to climate goals and are also investing in adaptation. A number of Canada’s key pension plans are also moving away from fossil fuel investments.⁷

Global market value for wind, solar, electric vehicles, batteries, and other clean tech grew nearly fourfold between 2015 and 2023, and is expected to nearly triple by 2035, to more than USD 2 trillion.⁸ Canada cannot afford to miss out on these economic opportunities, nor can it remain overinvested in fossil fuels as global demand declines.

Yet, most of Canada’s largest financial institutions are investing in the wrong direction, overinvested in oil and gas and underinvested in clean energy relative to global peers. In 2022, Bay Street funneled over CAD 1.43 trillion (USD 1.1 trillion) in financing towards fossil fuel companies.⁹

Canada must close the climate-related gaps in its governance of the financial system, while

strengthening clean growth, biodiversity preservation and upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Canada and everywhere federally regulated entities conduct business.

The *Climate Aligned Finance Act (CAFA)*,¹⁰ reintroduced in the Senate in October 2025, would strengthen Canada’s economic resilience and its ability to achieve national and international climate commitments by legislating the entire field of federal jurisdiction over financial regulation. Canada’s Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development has recommended its implementation, along with other key recommendations.¹¹

The Green Budget Coalition recommends that the Government of Canada implement the following key principles from CAFA (S-238):

- **Establish a duty for directors, officers, and administrators** to align entities with climate commitments.
- **Align the purposes** of federally regulated entities, crown corporations, and the financial regulator with climate commitments.
- **Require the development of climate transition plans**, targets, and progress reports on meeting climate commitments, **and increased transparency** by making them public and freely accessible.
- **Ensure climate expertise** on certain boards of directors.
- Making **capital adequacy requirements** proportional to the microprudential and macroprudential climate risks generated by financial institutions.

⁷ Shift:Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health. 2025 Canadian Pension Climate Report Card, 2025 Canadian Pension Climate Report Card — Shift - Protect Your Pension and the Planet

⁸ International Energy Agency. (2024, October 30). Global market for key clean technologies set to triple to more than \$2 trillion over the coming decade as energy transitions advance. Energy Technology Perspectives 2024 – Analysis - IEA

⁹ The Toronto Climate Observatory, “Bay Street Climate Report: Tackling the Global Carbon Footprint of Toronto’s Financial Industry”. https://www.climateobservatory.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BayStreetClimateReport_Oct2024-1.pdf

¹⁰ Senate of Canada, “Bill S-238 451 An Act to enact the Climate-Aligned Finance Act and to make related amendments to other Acts Public Bill (Senate) S-238 (45-1) - First Reading - Enacting Climate Commitments Act - Parliament of Canada

¹¹ Committee Report No. 2 - ENVI (45-1) - House of Commons of Canada

- **Alignment of Financial Products.** Amending taxation and bankruptcy laws to incentivize financial products that align with climate commitments and disincentivize those that are not.

Recommendation:

Implement policies aligned with the key principles of CAFA that will enable the financial sector and federally regulated entities to align their activities with Canada’s international climate and biodiversity commitments and nationally legislated targets. [FIN, ECCC]

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1B) Climate Competitiveness - Investments

A modern, resilient East-West electricity grid based on renewables

Canada must invest in its electricity infrastructure to enhance its economic resilience and security.

Electricity is the foundation of a modern economy as the world shifts decisively into the “age of electricity.” Given the evolving trade relationships with the United States and surging domestic demand for clean electricity—driven by growth in building and industrial electrification, electric vehicle manufacturing, steel making, and data centres—Canada urgently needs a strong, modern, and resilient East-West electricity grid.

Building this electricity grid—a central commitment of Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Liberal Party in the 2025 election—requires Canada to move beyond incremental steps and adopt a bold, coordinated strategy that aligns federal investments with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous leadership as part of a broader nation-building effort. This means expanding physical infrastructure, modernizing policy frameworks, ensuring equitable participation, and prioritizing demand-side solutions alongside clean energy generation. The federal government must prioritize the electric economy through the following strategic investments.

Total Recommended Investment: \$32 billion over five years [NRCan, FIN]

- 1) Transmission and Canada’s East-West Grid:** Amend the Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit to provide an enhanced **50% Investment Tax Credits for interprovincial and interregional transmission projects**. This is in line with the Canada Electricity Advisory Council’s (CEAC) 2024 recommendations.¹²

The Green Budget Coalition also recommends an additional **10% Investment Tax Credit adder**, for a

¹² Canada Electricity Advisory Council: Final Report, “Powering Canada: A blueprint for success”, May 2024 <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-sources/powering-canada-blueprint-success#a25b>

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total of 60% Investment Tax Credit eligibility for projects using Canadian content. This adder will incentivise investment in sectors hard-hit by American trade disruptions such as Canadian steel and aluminium manufacturing.

This increased level of tax credits will attract the necessary investments needed to kickstart strategic intertie projects and build out the East-West grid – a high-priority nation-building endeavour deserving of significant federal focus, which has the potential to generate high-quality jobs, better health outcomes, increase affordability, and strengthen Canada’s national security for communities and businesses. The current level of applicable Clean Electricity ITCs at 15% and the \$1.5 billion set aside in the Liberal Party’s 2025 costed platform¹³ are notably insufficient to achieve these key outcomes on their own.

Although electricity generation clearly falls within provincial jurisdiction, the federal government has an essential role in convening stakeholders, strategic planning, and sending a clear signal of federal priority and funding to ensure valuable projects are brought forward. To support the most impactful use of this investment, the Green Budget Coalition recommends that the federal government set aside **\$500 million** to develop comprehensive regional plans and cost-allocation and benefit-accrual frameworks that integrate grid innovation and new technologies, in partnership with provincial governments, Indigenous leadership, and regional stakeholders.¹⁴

The Green Budget Coalition estimates that these enhanced ITCs and aligned federal government action on interprovincial and intraprovincial

¹³ Liberal Party of Canada, “Canada Strong.” <https://liberal.ca/cstrong/>

¹⁴ Canada Electricity Advisory Council: Final report Powering Canada: A blueprint for success”, May 2024. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-sources/powering-canada-blueprint-success#a25b>

transmission links will cost up to **\$20 billion over five years.**

2) Efficiency and demand-side management: \$6.5 billion over five years to match provincial funding for demand-side management projects.

This support will focus on demand-side management initiatives that reduce customer bills, optimize grid and generation resource use, enable greater adoption of distributed energy resources, and lead to incremental emissions reductions.

3) Indigenous clean energy and project equity: \$5 billion over five years to advance Indigenous-owned and Indigenous-led clean energy projects through grants and Indigenous Loan Guarantees.

This funding will build capacity, enhance access, and enable Indigenous communities to meaningfully participate and hold a vested financial equity in large-scale nation-building projects such as the East-West grid, and major renewable electricity generation and cutting-edge battery storage projects. Federal support must additionally include programs for providing communities the necessary resources to engage effectively in consultation processes.

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Climate resilient housing

While pressure continues across all levels of government to deliver new units of housing, we must not lose focus on the critical role that existing housing plays in the affordable housing supply and in ensuring all Canadians have access to a home that is affordable to heat and cool and can keep them safe from the impacts of climate change.

Overcoming the housing crisis and the climate crisis cannot be achieved without the retrofitting and maintenance of existing buildings. The Federal Housing Advocate reports have shown that not only has the rate of affordable housing construction fallen significantly behind the rate of housing need, but we are also losing 15 units of affordable housing for every one created.¹⁵

The rapid expansion of a domestic retrofit market presents a far greater supply chain, manufacturing, and workforce growth opportunity than just new construction on its own. By approaching the housing industry as one that includes both construction and renovation, Canada can create in-community and skilled jobs, and domestic innovation in products and manufacturing, while addressing climate resilience.

Building retrofits open the door for “made-in-Canada” energy resources, like demand-side energy resources (e.g., rooftop solar, battery storage, or shifting energy use to lower-use times) and improved energy efficiency. Investments in energy efficiency and demand-side resources create long-term, local jobs, studies show up to 75,000 jobs per year.¹⁶ They also attract capital from the industries of tomorrow and help advance our economic and climate goals.

¹⁵ Canadian Human Rights Commission. “Federal Housing Advocate urges government to prioritize non-market housing in a new report” (2025) <https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/resources/newsroom/federal-housing-advocate-urges-government-prioritize-non-market-housing-new#:~:text=The%20report%20finds%20that%20since,every%20one%20that%20was%20created.>

¹⁶ Canada Green Building Council. “Green Retrofit Economy Study” (2022) <https://www.cagbc.org/news-resources/research-and-reports/retrofit-economy/>

To meet emissions reduction targets, Canada must develop a retrofit industry able to decarbonize 600,000 dwellings and more than 70 million square metres of commercial space each year by 2040.¹⁷ Canada’s building retrofit rate is estimated to be well below one per cent per year.¹⁸ At that pace, it would take over a century to upgrade the entire building stock — far too slow to meet Canada’s housing and climate needs.

Retrofitting our homes and buildings is a high-return investment that provides families and businesses with healthier, safer indoor spaces, that are more resilient to severe weather events, and more affordable to heat and cool. The Green Budget Coalition recommends that Canada prioritize retrofitting the buildings that are already in place in order to meet climate, housing, and affordability targets, as the majority of these buildings will still be standing in 2050.

Successfully addressing the housing crisis requires that we think of not only the creation of new units of housing, but the preservation of existing buildings. This combined approach, in a strategy to ensure all Canadians have a climate resilient home, provides the greatest opportunity to multi-solve for our current interconnected challenges.

Background

The Liberal party platform recognized the important role of home retrofits:

- “Fund home retrofits and lower utility bills while making it easier for low- and middle-income households, including renters, to adopt heat pumps and energy efficiency upgrades. Eligible

¹⁷ Kennedy, Madi and Tom-Pierre Frappé-Sénéclauze, “Canada’s renovation wave: A plan for jobs and climate” (2021).

<https://www.pembina.org/pub/canadas-renovation-wave>

¹⁸ Efficiency Canada, “Making the case: Why we need Mandatory Building Performance Standards in Canada.” <https://www.energycanada.org/making-the-case-why-we-need-mandatory-building-performance-standards-in-canada/>

costs could include insulation upgrades, heat pump installation, and window replacements.”

- “Enable opportunities for big polluters to support consumers in lowering their carbon footprint. We will work with provinces and territories to seek ways for large emitters to support consumer adoption of green technologies and retrofits, such as heat pumps and electric vehicles, which also help lower household energy bills.”¹⁹

Federal government programs must be designed to both scale up industry capacity and ensure that households living with energy affordability challenges can access programs designed to transition away from fossil fuels, afford their everyday energy needs, and benefit from clean energy.

The federal government must also establish a targeted effort to analyze and address the housing needs of Indigenous communities and members of urban Indigenous populations led by Indigenous agencies and community representatives who would set the priorities and determine investment needs and allocation.

The Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) *Indigenous Housing Energy Efficiency Data Set* estimates that there are 209,000 homes in Indigenous communities across Canada (121,000 First Nation, 13,000 Inuit, 75,000 Métis) that require energy efficiency upgrades. Combined with the need for ~72,000 new builds, **this represents an investment of \$5.4 billion.**²⁰ These numbers generally reflect rural, remote and on-reserve homes.

New Construction

- New construction supported through the Build Canada Homes or other federal housing programs should aim to achieve the highest level of the National Building Code and National Energy Code for Buildings, measure and report

embodied carbon, and prioritize design catalogue buildings that integrate climate risk assessments and net-zero emissions design principles. [HICC, FIN]

- Performance requirements should include the maintenance of a maximum indoor air temperature of 26 degrees Celsius and a heating and cooling equipment efficiency standard of greater than 100%. [HICC, NRCan]

Retrofits

- Allocate **\$1 billion per year for five years** from the Build Communities Strong Fund and Build Canada Homes to recapitalize and maintain **retrofit programs**, including the Deep Retrofit Accelerator Initiative, the Green Neighbourhoods Pilot Program, the Canadian Greener Homes Affordability Program, and the CMHC Affordable Housing Fund. [NRCan, HICC]
- Commit to **\$540 million per year for five years** for retrofits and energy efficiency upgrades for housing projects in Indigenous communities, as identified by Indigenous Clean Energy. [ISC, CMHC, CIB]

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¹⁹ <https://liberal.ca/cstrong/build/>

²⁰ Indigenous Clean Energy, “Energy Foundations: The Value Proposition for Financing Energy Efficient Homes in Indigenous Communities Canada-Wide” (2021). <https://indigenouscleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Energy-Foundations-Report-FINAL.pdf>

Sustainable career paths for workers in a rapidly changing world

In February 2026, the Government of Canada released the *2026-2030 Sustainable Jobs Action Plan* outlining how it will support workers and communities through Canada's transition to a net-zero emissions economy. The Plan names three pillars that serve as the foundation to Canada's approach: build, power, and protect. While the Plan identifies both demand and supply side measures that support job creation and worker training and support, it outlines only previously announced measures with no new funding and limited implementation details. The Green Budget Coalition urges the Government of Canada to provide additional resources that transform words into action and showcase Canada as a leader in ensuring workers are at the centre of nation building and climate action.

Total Recommended Investment: \$1 billion over three years, and \$10 million over five years

The Green Budget Coalition recommends the following measures with the expectation that they would be refined through social dialogue with labour, Indigenous Peoples, and other expert groups.

1) Direct the Major Projects Office (MPO) to establish labour conditions for fast-tracked projects

The MPO identified two tranches of projects eligible for fast-tracked approval processes which could create over 100,000 jobs, but an expedited project timeline should not supersede the creation of decent work. Labour conditions attached to these projects would leverage billions in new investment to create high quality jobs, securing greater social and economic benefits for workers and communities. Conditions could include training provision, prevailing wage standards, collective bargaining rights, and apprenticeship quotas. The MPO should work with labour and employers to establish labour conditions for these key job creating activities. [MPO, PCO]

2) Make Employment Insurance (EI) and Work Sharing enhancements permanent

Long term planning and policy durability are essential to create the conditions for workers to make informed decisions about their future and navigate turbulent job markets in trade-exposed sectors. The global energy transition, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuations in the economy will continue to have impacts on clean energy industries. The flexibilities to EI and Work Sharing agreements originally introduced to support workers impacted by tariffs, such as extended duration of support and removal of waiting periods, should be made permanent to ensure workers have access to timely and responsive social support in the event of jobs loss and industry decline. **An investment of \$1 billion over three years** to match estimates of the Temporary Employment Insurance for economic uncertainty would ensure support for affected workers and encourage upskilling programs. [ESDC]

3) Continued data collection, analysis and modelling to inform planning

An investment of **\$10 million over five years** is needed for regional data analysis and modelling projections that support decision makers, employers, and individuals to understand future workforce and economic scenarios and make informed decisions through the shift to a clean economy. Working closely with the Sustainable Jobs Secretariat, the results of this analysis would be reflected in the Sustainable Jobs Action Plans and made accessible to different audiences as part of the requirement to summarize available data used in the plan's development as per the Act. [NRCan, ESDC, StatCan]

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National heavy duty vehicle technician upskilling program

Canada's transition to electric vehicles is accelerating through federal investments in vehicle procurement and charging infrastructure. However, the absence of a trained, safety-certified maintenance workforce is increasingly a limiting factor. Electric heavy-duty vehicles such as school buses require new competencies—including high-voltage safety, zero-voltage verification and charging-system troubleshooting—skills not covered in traditional heavy-duty diesel training. Without coordinated federal action to upskill the existing workforce, operators face service delays, increased costs, and reduced fleet reliability.

To ensure a safe, equitable, and effective transition, the Green Budget Coalition recommends federal investment in a national technician upskilling program delivered through colleges, union training centres, and accredited providers. This would offer modular training for in-service mechanics. Federal support should also include measures that expand equal access to training—such as travel support, paid release time, and targeted outreach to under-represented groups—so that all qualified workers can participate, regardless of location, income, or background.

This program would strengthen workforce readiness, improve safety outcomes, support job mobility, and ensure that federal investments in electric heavy-duty vehicles deliver their full environmental, economic, and public-health benefits.

Recommended Investment: \$100 million over five years [NRCan, ESDC, TC, HICC]

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Transportation

Collective transportation solutions to connect Canadians

Approximately 40% of low-income residents in Canada's eight largest cities live in "transportation poverty", while only 10% of rural residents have convenient access to public transit. Strategic investments in public transit address these challenges directly. Evidence shows that investments in transit systems yield the highest economic performance and the largest effects on employment and labor productivity than investments in other public infrastructures, including highways. Yet, Canada is the only G7 country without a national transportation strategy, limiting its ability to fully capture these economic and social returns while encouraging dependency on private vehicles and fuel imported from its American neighbour.

To fully realize these benefits, Canada needs stable, dedicated funding for transit and a national public transportation strategy that aligns major investments—such as high-speed rail, regional rail, and local transit—into a coherent, pan-Canadian system. The following recommendations outline how to achieve this shift:

1) Launch a National Public Transportation Strategy to connect Canadians

- Allocate **\$50 million over three years**, with the first priority being to develop a dedicated policy within 12-18 months. A structured federal process is needed to define targets and principles for network integration, and to ensure that major infrastructure investments like high-speed rail are embedded in an integrated, nationwide transit network that serves cities, suburbs, regions, and interprovincial corridors. [TC]

2) Restore predictability and double public transit funding

- Restore predictability, with explicit protection of funding for public transit within consolidated infrastructure programs. To

ensure stable planning and sustained ridership growth, the \$5 billion transferred to the Building Strong Communities Fund should be explicitly dedicated to public transit. Clear earmarking of these funds is essential to restore certainty for transit agencies and municipalities, and to deliver long-term service improvements.

- Double funding to an **ongoing \$6 billion per year** federal envelope dedicated to public transit, to secure and signal Canada's intention to develop sustainable mobility. [HICC]

3) **Guarantee interconnection of high-speed rail with existing transportation networks**

- Allocate a strategic planning fund of **\$100 million over three years** for municipalities along the Quebec–Toronto high-speed rail corridor to conduct opportunity studies, adapt land-use and transit plans, and ensure that the new infrastructure is fully integrated with existing and future public transit networks. [TC]

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Building a national public charging network for electric vehicles

The Government of Canada must continue to build on the public and private investments made to date in the nation's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, by expanding NRCan's successful Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP).

The Government's announcement of increased funding for the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) is very positive. However the CIB funding is dedicated only for very large public fast charging projects over \$25M. ZEVIP to date has been successful in filling a gap in the Government's support for public and private charging by providing cost-shared funding that targets under served and non urban regions and areas across Canada. ZEVIP provides important support to small to medium sized retail operations; businesses and municipalities located beyond major cities; and multi-unit residential buildings. ZEVIP's model of leveraging substantial private sector investment has been particularly effective according to the Environment and Sustainable Development Commissioner.

A recent national report concludes that there continues to be a serious shortage of public charging stations. EV owners' dissatisfaction with the availability of public chargers ranges from 54% in Quebec to as high as 79% in other parts of Canada. An expanded ZEVIP has the potential to be an important national project to address the serious gaps in public charging infrastructure across Canada.

Recommended Investment: \$325 million over three years, starting in 2027 [NRCan]

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Adapt the EV Affordability Program for more equity and efficiency

1) A fair and effective EV Affordability Program (\$2.3 billion over five years)* [TC]

- Dedicate the subsidy to low- or moderate-income buyers that rely on it to purchase an EV;
- Prioritize first-time buyers;
- Offer \$2,500 for a used ZEV;
- Offer \$2,000 for a new electric bicycle (for up to 50 % of the cost of a new ebike);
- For carsharing and taxi vehicles: remove caps (or institute a cap of 5% of total fleet); and
- Require manufacturers to publish and share historical prices.

(*) partially funded through either the carbon market or a feebate system targeting highly polluting vehicles, with exemptions for large families and certain professionals, such as trade workers.

2) Public awareness campaign and dealer training (\$10 million one-time investment) [NRCan, ECCC]

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Marine shipping

Shipping is essential to Canada's economy and global reach, but it must evolve to protect nature and respond to shifting strategic priorities. Sustainable shipping supports the well-being of Indigenous and coastal communities by slowing biodiversity loss, cutting pollution, and reducing climate emissions. By investing in cleaner, safer shipping, Canada can meet its international commitments and reinforce its role as a steward of its waters across its three oceans.

Total Recommended Investment: \$710 million over five years

Accelerating zero-emission shipping and protecting biodiversity

- 1) **GHG Emission Reduction Innovation Fund: \$10 million over two years** to provide advisory and capacity-building services to assist with vessel design, retrofit and testing for wind-assist, solar, electrification, autonomous technology and digitalization, and hull appendages. [TC, NRCan]
- 2) **Alternative fuels: \$100 million over five years** to ensure that Canadian ports have the basic infrastructure needed to supply low and zero-carbon marine fuels, enabling the full decarbonization of domestic shipping by 2050 and maintaining Canada's competitiveness in global trade. Only fuels that offer significant lifecycle GHG benefits should be included. [TC, HICC]
- 3) **Green port infrastructure: \$500 million over five years** to accelerate shore power adoption by ensuring vessels and ports are equipped with the necessary infrastructure. [TC, ECCC, HICC]
- 4) **Electronic Navigational Charts: \$3 million over three years** to integrate marine protected areas (MPAs) and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) into electronic navigational charts by developing S-122 data products compatible with the International Hydrographic Organization's (IHO) Universal Hydrographic Data Model. [DFO, ECCC, PC, TC]

- 5) **Clean Shipping Corridors: \$60 million over three years** for TC, in collaboration with DFO and ECCC, to pilot “Clean Shipping Corridors” between Canadian and international ports. Funding would support harmonized standards, including the use of compliant low sulphur fuels without scrubbers, and measures to reduce underwater noise, marine mammal strike risk, and operational discharges. Incentives could include reduced port fees, priority berthing, and retrofit tax credits. [TC, DFO, ECCC, GAC]
- 6) **Heavy fuel oil & scrubbers initiative: \$5 million over two years** for ECCC to further develop research on the use of Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (“scrubbers”) with heavy fuel oil (HFO) and their impacts on particulate matter emissions—including black carbon—water quality, human health, other industries and communities, and climate change, and to report these findings to the International Maritime Organization. [ECCC, TC]
- 7) **Cruise ship impacts: \$12 million over five years** to further develop, legislate, monitor, and enforce enhanced cruise ship regulations with a view to reduce impacts to the marine environment, communities, and species. [TC]

Tools to generate revenue

- Cruise ship surcharge: Establish an environmental surcharge on cruise ships entering Canadian waters, based on measurable factors such as passenger capacity, to fund environmental monitoring and community-based stewardship initiatives. [TC, ECCC]
- Insurance fund: Establish a legally mandated insurance fund, financed by the marine sector, to compensate local and Indigenous communities for public health, environmental, and cultural impacts resulting from disruptions or disasters. [TC]

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Ensuring accurate, measurement-based oil and gas methane data

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with over 80 times the warming impact of carbon dioxide. Rapid reductions are essential, and methane mitigation remains one of the lowest-cost opportunities in the oil and gas sector. Canada has finalized regulations to achieve a 75% reduction in methane emissions by 2030.

Despite this, methane emissions continue to be significantly underestimated. Research from Carleton University’s Energy & Emissions Research Lab (EERL) shows that actual measured emissions are 1.5-2 times higher than industry’s bottom-up estimates. Accurate, measurement-based inventories are critical for federal-provincial equivalency negotiations and for validating outcomes under Canada’s updated methane regulations, which include a performance-based compliance pathway. Independent measurement is required to confirm reported methane intensities or ensure this pathway aligns with 2030 targets.

To address these gaps, EERL has launched **MethaneNet**, a multi-stakeholder initiative supported by NRCan and the Government of British Columbia.

Sustained federal investment is needed to expand MethaneNet’s work, to provide the technical foundation for equivalency negotiations and verification of methane reductions through 2030.

Recommended Investment: Commit **\$26 million over five years** to MethaneNet for measurement and tracking of emissions at oil and gas facilities across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and B.C. [ECCC, NRCan]

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2) Climate Adaptation

Ramping up core adaptation investments to increase resiliency in the face of climate change

To support implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), the Green Budget Coalition recommends scaling up federal core adaptation investments from \$6.5 billion over the eight-year period of 2015-2023²¹ to:

At least \$65 billion over the next decade (2026-2035) for core adaptation programs [NRCan, ECCC, HC, PS, ISED, TC, CIRNAC, and other departments and agencies].

Investments are urgently required in the face of major and rising economic losses from natural disasters. Worldwide, economic losses are approaching an average of \$250 billion per year.²² Canada saw insured losses of \$9.4 billion in 2024 and \$2.4 billion in 2025.²³ Disaster mitigation and recovery funding has been identified as a nation-building priority in the 2025 Liberal platform.²⁴

Scaling Up Investments to Date and Addressing Gaps

Immediate funding priorities include:²⁵

- Direct investment of up to **\$1.5 billion annually over ten years** for a mix of climate-proofed grey and green water and wastewater infrastructure that will enable the building of new homes.
- Surge funding to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF), including a federal platform commitment of a **\$500 million top-up, followed by \$2 billion in 2026 and at least \$1 billion per year for ten years** thereafter.²⁶
 - Surge funding would scale up proven, large-scale risk reduction investments that DMAF is already set up to fund, but for which demand has consistently far outstripped available dollars.
- Investing **\$450 million over four years** to establish a low-cost national flood insurance program for high-risk households.
- Renewing Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s funding for policy-relevant research into the link between climate change, severe weather events, and health outcomes in Canada, for **\$80 million over five years**.
- Investing **\$3 million over three years** to support the development and mobilization of Heat Alert and Response Systems (HARS) for eligible provinces, territories and local governments.
- Investing **\$230 million** to Métis Nation Emergency Management as part of Canada's commitment to Métis leadership in climate solutions and nature

²¹ Environment and Climate Change Canada (2023). "Funding climate change adaptation". <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/06/funding-climate-change-adaptation.html>.

²² World Economic Forum (2026). "The Global Risks Report 2026: 21st Edition". https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2026.pdf.

²³ Insurance Bureau of Canada (2026). "Governments urged to significantly boost investments in resiliency to better protect communities". <https://www.ibc.ca/news-insights/news/severe-weather-related-insured-losses-in-canada-exceed-2-4-billion-in-2025>.

²⁴ Liberal Party of Canada (2025). "Canada Strong". <https://liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/292/2025/04/Canada-Strong.pdf>.

²⁵ Climate Proof Canada, "Building a Climate Proof Canada: National Resilience Recommendations to 2030." <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60a50c60a83ef84c78cb1413/t/690d17e9dd05e854fb769d50/1762465769405/Building+a+Climate+Proof+Canada+-+National+Resilience+Recommendations+to+2030.pdf>.

²⁶ A priority for DMAF top-up funding is supporting emergency planning and disaster recovery in equity-deserving and low-income communities.

conservation.

- Advancing priorities identified by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis through the Indigenous Climate Leadership (ICL) Agenda.

Additional priorities include:

- **Wildfire defence funding**,^{27,28}
- **Hazard mapping**, with a focus on flooding and wildfires;
- **Retrofits** for the hundreds of thousands of Canadian homes at risk to climate impacts (*see Climate resilient housing, earlier in this document for more details*);
- **Targeted programs** for people with health conditions and disabilities, and other marginalized and underserved populations particularly vulnerable to climate change;
- **Natural infrastructure**, such as forested areas and wetlands to protect against natural disasters, including but not limited to flooding, storm surges, extreme heat, and mudslides (*see Delivering on nature commitments, later in this document*).

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²⁷ We note that a number of groups, including Green Budget Coalition members Ducks Unlimited Canada and Nature Canada, have called for a funding package of \$4.1 billion over five years in this letter: https://corporateknights.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/TS2-Wildfire_Response_Letter_FINAL.pdf.

²⁸ This coalition's request for a \$820 million investment in year one of their plan was partially met by Budget 2025's proposal to provide \$257.6 million over four years to NRCan to lease aircraft in order to bolster firefighting capacity.

3) International Climate & Biodiversity Finance

Canada's international climate and biodiversity finance contributions

The top two global “long-term risks (2036)” according to the World Economic Forum are extreme weather events, followed by biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse. Dollars to address both problems go a long way in lower-income countries. Hence, it remains vital for Canada to do its utmost in its international finance commitments and to apply funds to maximum effect.

Recommended Investments [GAC, ECCC]:

- **International Climate Finance: \$20 billion over five years**, with 40% applied to adaptation, 40% to mitigation, and 20% to loss and damage, and an additional \$150 million to support Canada's participation in negotiations towards an international plastics treaty and related work on global plastic pollution.
- **International Biodiversity Finance: \$1 billion per year, ongoing**

Priorities with climate finance include:

Least-developed countries and vulnerable populations; industry; agriculture, forestry and other land use; continuing support for developing countries to address plastic pollution; and Indigenous People (important allies in reducing tropical deforestation), as well as Canada's active participation in UNFCCC processes. The Climate Loss and Damage Fund should receive a substantial contribution from Canada. The Tropical Forests Forever Facility, a blended-finance mechanism proposed by Brazil, is worthy of Canada's consideration.

Priorities with biodiversity finance: Most of Canada's biodiversity aid is multilateral. Canada can complement this by supporting highly cost-effective conservation work by locally based organizations who lack the capacity to obtain grants from multilateral agencies. This can be done through conservation charities that specialize in partnering with such groups. Canada can address the problem

of “paper parks” through finance mechanisms such as the Legacy Landscapes Fund and the Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar.

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4) Nature-Positive Agriculture

Nature-positive agriculture: economic growth that supports biodiversity and builds climate resilience

The Canadian agri-food and agriculture sector is at a critical juncture. As a sector inherently tied to the rhythms of nature, it is uniquely vulnerable to climate change impacts - shifting weather patterns and extreme weather events threaten Canada's capacity to produce food, fiber, and fuel for domestic use and export. At the same time, the sector holds enormous potential to help meet our climate and biodiversity goals. Sustainable, nature-positive farming practices and management approaches can reduce emissions and reverse biodiversity loss, while also improving farm productivity and resilience. The Green Budget Coalition envisions Canada as a leader in sustainable agriculture, with a resilient, diversified food system that supports both the environment and the economy. Achieving this vision requires enabling producers to adopt climate-smart, nature-positive practices and systems at scale - a collective priority that balances immediate needs with long-term environmental health.

The Green Budget Coalition recommends the federal government invest in initiatives to accelerate the transition to climate-smart, nature-positive agriculture. This investment package is organized around three key pillars - (1) Empowering Producers, (2) Protecting Natural Capital, and (3) Building Climate Resilience - each comprising high-impact initiatives described below. This pragmatic approach leverages market mechanisms and innovation to position Canada as a global leader in sustainable food systems. By funding these measures, the government will create jobs, strengthen food security, and restore ecosystems, all while helping to achieve Canada's 2030 climate and nature targets.

Total Recommended Investment: \$1.085 billion over five years

1) Empowering Producers - *Making Sustainable Practices Profitable & Accessible* [AAFC]

Goal: align farm profitability with sustainability so that climate-smart practices become the norm. In a constrained fiscal environment, the focus is on leveraging existing programs and market forces to drive change:

- **Advance new market opportunities:** facilitate access to new markets (via eco-certification, green procurement, and export promotion) that reward producers with premium prices for sustainably produced goods, allowing farm businesses to profit from their environmental stewardship, including by leveraging existing third-party verification and assurance systems to reduce administrative burden, ensure credibility, and accelerate market access (**\$100 million over five years**).
- **Enhance farmer-to-farmer innovation networks:** invest in scaling up Agricultural Extension Services (for example Living Labs programs) to accelerate the spread of best practices (**\$100 million over five years**).

2) Protecting Canada's Natural Capital - *Rewarding Stewardship of Land & Ecosystems* [AAFC, ECCC, StatCan, NRCan, CIRNAC, PMO, PCO]

Goal: Conserve and enhance the natural ecosystems on which agriculture and rural communities depend.

- **Develop a national land-use strategy and action plan:** coordinate with provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners on a national land use plan to balance agricultural production with conservation, ensuring habitats are protected even as we grow food (**\$30 million over five years**);
- **Support marginal land stewardship:** Expand cost-shared programs to help farmers retire or restore low-productivity, high-risk lands

(e.g., flood plains, steep erosion-prone fields) into natural cover. **(\$30 million over five years);**

- **Reward on-farm ecosystem services (markets and payments):** Establish mechanisms to pay farmers for environmental benefits in a scalable way, focusing on public-private partnerships. Use a two-pronged approach: a) invest in developing ecosystem service markets (carbon offsets and biodiversity credits) that attract private capital; and b) implement a focused Payment for Ecosystem Services pilot for habitats. Reward producers for environmental benefits. This includes developing market-based credits and a federal Payment for Ecosystem Services program that directly pays producers to conserve wetlands, grasslands, and forests, and to deliver public benefits on working lands, enabling stacking of payments for management systems delivering multiple benefits (such as soil health, biodiversity, clean water). **(\$100 million over five years).**

3) **Building Climate Resilience - *Climate-Proofing Canadian Agriculture*** [AAFC, ECCC, HC, ISC, CIRNAC, StatCan, NRCan]

Goal: Equip Canada's agriculture sector to withstand and adapt to climate risks and shocks using innovative, cost-effective measures.

- **Implement a national Soil Health Strategy:** maintain commitment to soil conservation with a modest investment. Use this funding to coordinate existing efforts and fill gaps such as creating a national soil health monitoring network and disseminate best practices **(\$15 million over five years).**
- **Upgrade climate data and early warning systems:** invest in advanced monitoring networks, decision-support tools, and early warning systems so producers can anticipate threats for adaptive management **(\$300 million over five years);**

- **Invest in on-farm data collection and targeted research to support the transition to nature-positive systems,** including soil health testing and the development of robust monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems to measure and recognize the full range of environmental and economic benefits. This should be complemented by targeted investments in social science research to better understand factors influencing producer uptake, and agri-economic research to assess cost-benefits, whole-farm economics, and systems-level transition pathways **(\$10 million over five years);**
- **Strengthen risk management and insurance:** modernize farm support programs to cover climate-driven losses, reflect distinct risk profiles of various farming systems, reward risk-reducing practices, and introduce a nationwide Livestock Price Insurance **(\$400 million over five years).**
- **Align agriculture policies to support sustainability:** review and realign existing agricultural subsidies to eliminate or reform any subsidies that inadvertently encourage environmental harm (cost-neutral).

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Canada Organic Accelerator Initiative

The Canada Organic Accelerator Initiative represents assets and aspirations of Canada Organic Trade Association, Canadian Organic Growers and the Organic Federation of Canada.

Canada's organic market hit \$10.55+ billion in 2025, #5 largest globally, projected to hit \$15.65 billion by 2030. 7,500+ certified operators, 6,000+ producers and 1,600 processors.

Total Recommended Investment: \$290.5 million over five years [AAFC, StatCan, ECCC, HC, CFIA, GAC, ISED, NRCan, DFO]

1) Organic Production Supports: \$223 million over five years

Creates organic extension services, research, and producers' knowledge transfer networks. [AAFC, ECCC, HC, NRCan, StatCan]

2) Organic Market Development at Home and Abroad: \$45 million over five years

Expands supply chain capacity and ensures optimal market access to target markets. [GAC, AAFC, HC, ISED, DFO]

3) Organic Sector Intelligence: \$10 million over five years

Supports market intelligence gathering and an inter-departmental approach to collect data **plus a one-time \$5 million investment** for a public portal. [StatCan, HC, CFIA, ISED, AAFC]

4) Standards and Equivalency Trade Arrangements: \$7.5 million over five years

Provides permanent funding for mandatory updating of Canadian Organic Standards and organic equivalency trade arrangements [CFIA, HC, AAFC, GAC, ISED, DFO]

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5) Tackling Pollution Priorities

Urgently renew funding for Canada's Chemicals Management Plan

The Green Budget Coalition reiterates the recommendation that funding for Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) be renewed at the earliest opportunity and be made permanent.

Under the CMP, ECCC and HC assess, manage and aim to reduce risks posed by chemical substances. The CMP was launched in 2006, and most recently renewed in Budget 2021 (\$476.7 million over three years). With its current funding poised to sunset in March 2026, the uncertain future of this program hampers the government's ability to effectively and efficiently deliver on core legislative mandates

Recommended Investment, restating the Green Budget Coalition's recommendation for Budget 2025: \$200 million in 2026-27, then \$300 million per year, ongoing, starting in 2027-28 [ECCC, HC]

Protecting people and the environment from toxic chemicals and pollution is a core function of the federal government that requires permanent, reliable funding over the long term to manage the growing risks and documented harms of toxic chemicals and pollution.

The Green Budget Coalition recommends moving the CMP budget to A-base to build and maintain scientific capacity for this important, legally mandated work. HC and ECCC must retain the capacity to assess new substances and update assessments in light of new science and approaches, and to develop and implement control measures for the increasing number of substances assessed as toxic under CEPA. The ongoing task of chemicals management requires permanent capacity.

Permanent CMP funding is also necessary to support Canada's Plastics Initiative given that petrochemical production and plastics are major contributors to toxic chemical pollution.

Additional resources will be needed since the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* was

updated in 2023,²⁹ including the recognition of the right to a healthy environment and a requirement to consider cumulative effects and effects on vulnerable populations.³⁰ The Green Budget Coalition recommends that CMP renewal invest in building science and policy capacity for these important new approaches.

The threats of and harms from toxic chemicals are growing. Without sufficient and reliable funding, Canada's environment, wildlife, and people will become increasingly contaminated and are more likely to suffer related adverse impacts. As an Arctic nation, Canada is particularly vulnerable to the harms of persistent toxic pollutants. Canada plays a crucial leadership role on the world stage in reducing the global use of persistent toxic pollutants. By resourcing the CMP permanently, Canada can continue over the long term to be a global leader in reducing toxic pollutants.

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²⁹Letter to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, "Strengthening Canada's Wildfire Response Capacity", October 23, 2025, https://corporateknights.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/TS2-Wildfire_Response_Letter_FINAL.pdf

³⁰ CEPA defines *vulnerable population* as "a group of individuals within the Canadian population who, due to greater susceptibility or greater exposure, may be at an increased risk of experiencing adverse health effects from exposure to substances."

Combating plastic pollution

Plastic pollution embodies the triple planetary crisis. Derived from petroleum, plastic production contributes to climate change. Toxic chemicals used in plastics add to the global pollution burden. The high volumes of plastics discarded into the environment worldwide harm wildlife and ecosystems.

Budgets 2019 and 2022 allocated in total about \$265 million over 8 years for federal leadership to achieve the goals of the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste. Phase 2 – Advancing a Circular Plastics Economy for Canada Horizontal Initiative – will sunset in March 2027. The Green Budget Coalition recommends renewing and expanding this initiative in Budget 2026.

Recommended Investment: \$300 million over five years for Phase 3 of the Zero Plastic Waste and Circular Economy Initiative, including \$100 million to establish a **reuse fund** to support development of reusable container and packaging solutions [ECCC lead, with continued participation from DFO, TC, PSPC, CIRNAC, Stat Can, HC, NRC, and adding AAFC and PC].

Phases 1 and 2 established important foundations and are beginning to show results. Phase 3 must build on these foundations. In particular, StatCan’s Physical Flow Account for Plastic Material now provides a strong basis for targeting and tracking interventions to end plastic pollution. Much more needs to be done to achieve the vision of a circular economy (as set out in the Canada-wide strategy) and the 2030 and 2040 commitments of the Ocean Plastics Charter.

Priorities for Phase 3 include: upstream measures – such as supporting provinces to improve extended producer responsibility (EPR) frameworks, supporting reuse and repair systems, and other support for small businesses and public entities to reduce single-use plastic packaging (aligning with requirements under the EU packaging regulation) – strengthening the Physical Flow Account for Plastic Material, continued monitoring and assessment of

human exposure and health effects, engaging additional federal departments (e.g., AAFC, Parks Canada), supporting Indigenous rights holders to access technical expertise and develop and implement programs.

The Green Budget Coalition further recommends funding for Canada’s continued active participation in negotiations for a new international treaty on plastic pollution that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, implementation of the Ocean Plastics Charter, and other multilateral and plurilateral engagement to tackle plastic pollution on a global scale, as well as financial support to help developing countries address plastic pollution. This is addressed in our recommendation on *International climate and biodiversity finance*.

See also the recommendation on Urgently renew funding for Canada’s Chemicals Management Program. More than 16,000 chemicals are used in the production of plastics. UNEP has identified ten groups of chemicals as being of major concern due to their high toxicity and potential to migrate or be released from plastics. Phasing out the use of these chemicals in plastics should be a priority for domestic and global action.

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Stabilizing resources for pesticide regulation

Preventing unacceptable risks to individuals and the environment from the use of pest control products is increasingly complex. The number of active ingredients and total pesticide sales have risen steadily since 2020. Health Canada received 5 years of special funding, in Budgets 2021 and 2024, to transform pesticide regulation and improve oversight. With this funding sunsetting in March 2026, and HC reducing more than 1,000 positions through the government's Comprehensive Expenditure Review,³¹ Canada's ability to ensure effective regulation of pesticides is at risk.

To stabilize resources in 2026, the Green Budget Coalition recommends that HC:

- Immediately proceed with proposed updates to the cost recovery fees charged to pesticide registrants (**revenue of \$89.8 million over ten years**), and pursue more comprehensive cost recovery to improve the sustainability of Canada's pesticide regulatory programs.
- Invest in AI solutions to support efficient monitoring and analysis of science, data and trends (**\$5 million over two years** for HC).

Cost recovery

In December 2024, following consultations earlier that year, HC published proposed *Regulations Amending the Pest Control Products Fees and Charges Regulations (Annual Charge)*. The revised approach to calculating the annual fee charged to registrants of pest control products was projected to raise \$12.79 million. Currently, the annual charge revenue covers only 17% of the costs associated with the post-market review of pest control products. The proposed changes would increase the cost recovery ratio to 42%, beginning on April 1, 2026. However, the amendments have not been finalized. The Green Budget Coalition has previously recommended

increasing the cost recovery ratio for re-evaluations and special reviews, and introducing cost-recovery for related activities such as water monitoring and pesticide use data collection. Finalizing the December 2024 proposed regulatory amendments, and ensuring the revenue is directed back to HC's post-market review program would be a start.

AI solutions

Pesticide regulation requires monitoring and analyzing large volumes of science, data and trends. Maintaining robust scientific expertise for this in the HC workforce is critical. AI could be used to realize efficiencies and expand continuous oversight of pesticides, in alignment with the government's AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2025-2027.³²

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³¹ Government of Canada, "Comprehensive Expenditure Review", (2026)
<https://www.canada.ca/en/government/publicservice/workforce/workforce-adjustment/workforce-reductions-federal-public-service.html>

Green Budget Coalition's Updated Recommendations (March 2026)

³² Government of Canada, "AI Strategy for the Federal Public Service 2025-2027: Priority areas", (2026)
<https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/digital-government-innovations/responsible-use-ai/gc-ai-strategy-priority-areas.html#sec2-toc-2>

Investing in Canada’s National Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism Strategy

Legislation passed in 2024, requires the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to develop and table a “strategy to assess, prevent and address environmental racism and to advance environmental justice” (Bill C-226). Following engagement and consultation on a draft strategy, the final strategy is to be tabled in Parliament in 2026. **The Green Budget Coalition recommends that Budget 2026 confirm funding for ECCC to implement the strategy.**

Too often in Canada, racialized and disadvantaged communities bear a disproportionate burden from environmental degradation and preventable environmental health hazards, such as pollution and toxic substances in consumer products. Environmental injustice exacerbates climate change impacts and other inequities that these communities experience.

The forthcoming national strategy could represent a turning point - coalescing a vision and mandate for reducing population-level environmental inequities and advancing environmental justice - but it needs to be adequately resourced in order to deliver results.

Priorities include:

- Maintaining policy, program and research capacity at ECCC to support implementation of the national strategy **(\$25 million over five years).**
- Resourcing ECCC’s enforcement branch to advance environmental justice through the enforcement of federal environmental laws in underserved communities **(\$200 million over five years).**
- Developing and maintaining a publicly-accessible screening and mapping tool that overlays environmental, health and socio-demographic data **(\$60 million over five years - \$30 million to develop the tool in 2026-27 and 2027-28, followed by \$10 million per year, for three**

years, to maintain it).

- Co-ordination across federal government departments and agencies, and collaboration with key partners, including other levels of government, Indigenous Nations, impacted communities, industry and independent experts **(\$10 million over five years) .**

The Green Budget Coalition has long recommended funding the establishment of a permanent, high-level Office of Environmental Justice, which could deliver on these priorities. We reiterate this recommendation for Budget 2026. An Office of Environmental Justice at ECCC would provide a single point of contact and provide leadership to accelerate federal action on environmental justice, and bring together people and processes to achieve results.

Recommended Investment: \$295 million over five years [ECCC]

The fine regime under the Environmental Enforcement Act should also be updated to increase penalties – at the very least, to adjust for inflation since 2017, when the Environmental Violations Administration Monetary Penalties Regulations entered into force. The Green Budget Coalition further recommends that ECCC explore options for directing funds from the Environmental Damages Fund to benefit underserved communities, support independent research and enhance environmental enforcement.

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6) Nature and Biodiversity Conservation

Delivering on nature commitments – protect and restore nature to catalyze a conservation economy (feature nature recommendation)

Budget 2026 provides a critical opportunity to translate federal nature commitments into durable, measurable progress to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. Anchored in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy, targeted investments are urgently needed to protect nature and accelerate ecosystem restoration — creating jobs, strengthening rural and Indigenous economies, and safeguarding the natural infrastructure that underpins Canada's prosperity. Protecting and restoring nature is critical to the health of Canadians and of the natural spaces that are core to our national identity.

Total Recommended Investment: \$4.675 billion over five years, followed by \$600 million per year, ongoing

Protect:

In the 2025 Speech from the Throne and the Liberal election platform, this government made a series of commitments that, if fully implemented, could go a long way to halting and reversing the biodiversity crisis in Canada. These include protecting 30% of land, freshwater, and ocean by 2030, implementing the KMGBF, and creating new national parks, marine protected areas and urban parks. The Enhanced Nature Legacy and Marine Conservation Targets programs provide a foundation on which all of Canada's conservation successes over the past 5 years are built. They are currently scheduled to sunset in March 2026 and the uncertainty is creating issues for the people delivering Canada's conservation agenda, both within and outside of government. Progress on many initiatives has already begun grinding to a halt and it is critical to act now to rebuild momentum.

These programs have been transformative for conservation in Canada over the past decade spurring significant investment from provinces, territories and

private sources, all while recognizing and supporting Indigenous-led conservation initiatives across the country. The percentage of Canada's ocean protected has moved from less than 1% to 15% and it is estimated that if projects already underway have the resources required to reach completion, an additional 14% of Canada's land and freshwater can be protected in the coming years.

By focusing a significant portion of these investments to Indigenous nations, organizations and communities, it will be possible to protect, restore, and manage the sustainable use of ecosystems, natural capital and their services while advancing Indigenous jurisdiction, rights and title and effective co-management of the land and water. This government's commitment to conserve nature in partnership with Indigenous Peoples can only be achieved by bolstering Indigenous jurisdiction and partnering with Indigenous communities for the long-term sustainable co-management of lands and ocean.

Additional investment is needed for Parks Canada to deliver on the promise to create 10 new national parks and marine protected areas and support 15 new urban parks. The current approach for the establishment of new Parks Canada sites is for each site to be moved forward through the budget process individually. An up-front funding approval for multiple sites to be established would allow Canada to better meet its commitments.

Relatedly, the Green Budget Coalition recommends providing long-term funding to Parks Canada's National Program for Ecological Corridors within renewed ENL funding, supporting collaborative conservation efforts across jurisdictions. This initiative will ensure safe wildlife movement between protected areas, enhancing genetic diversity and ecosystem resilience within and outside of National Parks.

To generate the enormous potential ecological, social, and economic benefits of protected areas, investments need to be ongoing, supporting the stewardship and management of areas in the long-term.

Specific Recommended Investments:

- 1) Renew or replace Marine Conservation Targets: **\$1 billion over five years, followed by \$200 million per year, ongoing**
Regain momentum toward protecting 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030 within biodiversity inclusive spatial planning. By taking a cooperative whole of government approach, with coordinated policy direction, previous investments have increased the percentage of Canada's ocean protection from less than 1% in 2015 to over 15% today, and advanced Indigenous reconciliation and support from other partners and stakeholders. [DFO, ECCC, PC, NRCan, TC, CIRNAC]
- 2) Renew or Replace Enhanced Nature Legacy Fund: **\$2.5 billion over five years**
Necessary to achieve protection of 30% of land and freshwater by 2030 and much more. Continue investments in support for Indigenous-led conservation, including IPCAs, and Indigenous Guardians. Consider intergovernmental transfers to provinces, territories, and Indigenous governments to support protection of natural capital. [ECCC, PC, DFO, HICC, NRCan]
- 3) Long-Term Funding for Parks Canada: **\$675 million over five years, followed by \$400 million per year, ongoing**
Ensure Canada's expanding network of national parks, national marine conservation areas, and national urban parks are adequately funded for establishment and stewardship. [PC]

Restore:

Restoration is a cornerstone of Canada's nature and climate agenda – an essential tool to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, enhance climate resilience for Canadians, and revitalize degraded ecosystems. Strategic investments in restoration are required to fulfill the Liberal Party platform commitments, including mapping carbon- and biodiversity-rich landscapes, delivering on Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy (including 30x30 restoration target), prioritizing natural infrastructure (e.g., wetlands and forested areas), and proactively rehabilitating and mitigating environmental and species at risk impacts in areas where significant infrastructure development is expected.

To meet these goals, Canada must fund national mapping programs to identify, monitor and restore degraded ecosystems, including wetlands, grasslands, peatlands, coastlines, and permafrost areas, while simultaneously growing the restoration sector's supply chain to meet increasing demand. This investment will enable smarter conservation decisions, accelerate progress towards Canada's climate and nature targets, and catalyze a conservation economy that creates jobs and builds resilience. Economic research has shown that for every dollar invested in the securement, restoration, and management of wetlands and conserved areas, society receives a \$22 benefit in terms of economic, ecological, and social well-being.

Specific Recommended Investments:

- 1) **National Habitat Restoration Fund: \$150 million over three years**
To advance Canada's biodiversity and climate goals, this fund would support the restoration of ecologically significant and high carbon value landscapes – such as wetlands, native grasslands, riparian zones, and native forests – many of which are underrepresented in current programs. This fund should also support a national framework for restoration to ensure consistent, effective practices across jurisdictions through shared definitions and a collaborative platform for planning. [ECCC, PC, NRCan, DFO, CIRNAC]

2) National Mapping and Monitoring:

\$300 million over five years

To complete national inventories and mapping for carbon and biodiversity-rich ecological landscapes including wetlands, grasslands, peatlands, coastlines, and permafrost areas. [ECCC, StatCan, ISED, NRCan, DFO, PC]

3) Support the Native Seed Sector to scale ecological restoration and grow the restoration economy: \$50 million over five years

To meet Canada’s biodiversity and climate commitments—including the Global Biodiversity Framework’s Target 2 on restoration—a reliable, ecologically appropriate supply of native seed is essential. Yet Canada currently lacks the infrastructure, coordination, and market conditions to support restoration at scale. Financial investment is needed to empower Indigenous leadership and entrepreneurship, support for sector training, employment, infrastructure, and certification programs, as well as seed testing, quality assurance, and applied research. [ECCC, NRCan, AAFC, ISED, ISC]

Budget 2026 represents a decisive moment. Canada has the knowledge, partners, and public support to deliver on its nature commitments — but not the time to delay. The European Union set binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems and increase urban green spaces in their Nature Restoration law (2024). By investing in nature now — through protection and restoration — the federal government can catalyze a conservation economy that serves people and the planet. These actions will fulfill our international obligations, uphold reconciliation, and build a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous Canada for generations to come.

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Reducing threats to biodiversity (KMGBF Targets 1-8)

Ecological connectivity to meet global and national biodiversity commitments (Target 1,2,3,12,14)

Connected landscapes are a lifeline for ecosystems, helping animals to find food, homes, and mates. The National Program for Ecological Corridors (NPEC) is Canada’s groundbreaking tool for keeping nature connected as we grow. Launched by Parks Canada in 2022, with \$60.6 million invested over five years, it is the world’s first national program to identify, establish, and protect key habitat connections between existing conservation areas.

Funding from NPEC delivers by leveraging federal dollars with funds from on-the-ground partners to advance nation-building natural infrastructure projects. 27 projects, supported by \$27.3 million in NPEC funding and an additional \$20.2 million of matching funds from project partners, are underway in 23 priority regions across Canada.

NPEC is more than a domestic innovation. It is a core mechanism for delivering on international promises. It reconnects landscapes so wildlife can move and ecosystems can function. It also provides economic and social returns that set up communities to thrive while Canada grows. By clearly identifying and enhancing or protecting these priority linkages, we can ensure the effectiveness of our protected areas networks while reducing potential for conflict resulting from competing land use expectations or strategies. Additionally, many development and resource extraction projects will proceed more quickly as this approach enables them to either avoid conflicts with priority linkage areas or at least anticipate and mitigate impacts.

Recommended Investment: \$120 million over five years [PC, ECCC]

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Habitat Infrastructure Renewal Fund (Targets 1,2,3,8,11)

Recommended Investment: \$520 million over four years to renew critical infrastructure with valuable ecosystem services. [HICC, ECCC, PC]

Canada has a proud legacy of conservation leadership, with early and ongoing collaboration between governments and non-profit organizations to protect natural landscapes. Many of these efforts have resulted in long-standing conservation infrastructure that support biodiversity, climate resilience, and Canadians’ connection with nature. While the federal government has made commendable investments in infrastructure renewal for Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service, non-profit conservation organizations – who have played a parallel and complementary role in landscape-level conservation – have not received equivalent support. These organizations are now facing aging infrastructure that threatens the ecological gains made.

The Green Budget Coalition recommends the creation of a fund that would support the renewal and upgrade of critical conservation infrastructure that advances ecological outcomes, protects natural spaces, and safeguards Canadian communities. Investments in this fund would directly contribute to meeting Canada’s climate and nature commitments including those outlined in the 2030 Nature Strategy.

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Renew and expand the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP) (Targets 1,3,4)

Nature is core to Canada's identity and underpins Canadian economic security and prosperity. Through a proven conservation delivery model like the Natural Heritage Conservation Program (NHCP), program partners can protect more nature than ever before. Since 2007, the NHCP has mobilized Canadians to deliver over 2,200 conservation initiatives in 350 municipalities from coast to coast to coast, resulting in more than 800,000 hectares protected. These projects provide benefits to Canadians each and every day such as clean drinking water, climate resilience and economic development opportunities.

This made-in-Canada public-private partnership has attracted private capital and other sources of funding that consistently deliver strong federal returns on investment. To date, the NHCP partners have invested more than \$1 billion of matched funding in conservation projects, leveraging funds from the Government of Canada to create more than \$1.5 billion in conservation investment since 2007. The NHCP is projected to run out of funds before March 2026. A renewed and enhanced partnership will further its value and conservation actions.

Recommended Investment: \$250 million over five years to be matched at a minimum of 1:1 by program partners, creating up to \$625 million in new conservation investment. [ECCC]

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Canada Conservation Investment Fund (Targets 1,3,4)

The Green Budget Coalition recommends the establishment of a Canada Conservation Investment Fund to ensure the long-term stewardship of privately conserved lands. Modeled after the Canada Cultural Investment Fund, this endowment fund would attract private conservation investment, support job creation, and strengthen the local and regional land trust sector that plays a crucial role in protecting Canada's most threatened landscapes, especially in southern regions. It would also enhance the reach and impact of Canada's land conservation programs.

This fund would provide essential infrastructure to expand private land conservation, foster sector growth and diversity, and secure long-term stewardship. To truly achieve permanent protection of natural areas, sustained federal investment in local and regional land trusts is essential.

Recommended Investment: \$150 million over ten years for an endowment fund that would provide a sustainable funding stream to boost the capacity of community-rooted land trusts in caring for natural areas in perpetuity. [ECCC, PC, FIN]

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Renewal for species at risk (Targets 1,2,3,4,14)

Renew the Habitat Stewardship Program to build upon the work being done to support tangible and measurable conservation outcomes, such as habitat protection, improvement, and threat abatement for species at risk. This program is essential to meet many commitments made in the 2025 Liberal platform and costing plan, such as rehabilitating and mitigating environmental and species at risk impacts in areas where we expect there to be significant new infrastructure, and halting and reversing nature and biodiversity loss through reinforced efforts to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030 and implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Recommended Investment: \$30 million over three years [ECCC, DFO, PC]

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Halt and reverse losses of Canada’s bird populations (Targets 2,3,4,10,21)

The State of Canada’s Birds 2024 report showed that many of our bird populations are in trouble. Since 1970, there are 67% fewer grassland birds, 43% fewer aerial insectivores and 42% fewer shorebirds, while waterfowl and birds of prey show positive trends. Ecosystem health throughout much of the Americas depends on the services provided by the billions of birds born in Canada annually. Birds also connect us to nature. We cannot afford to lose more birds due to human actions. In this budget, the Green Budget Coalition urges the federal government to invest in birds by funding efforts to reduce human-caused risks to birds and improving their habitats. The Green Budget Coalition is calling for strategic investments to halt and reverse bird population declines.

Total Recommended Investment: \$30 million over four years [ECCC – Canadian Wildlife Service] to:

- Mitigate human-related bird mortality in urban and working landscapes (agricultural and forestry) in Canada by supporting actions that directly address major human-related causes of direct and indirect bird mortality (e.g., destruction of habitat, pesticide use, collisions with human-built structures). **\$12 million over four years**
- Protect and restore key habitats and areas for grassland birds, aerial insectivores, and shorebirds. Develop and implement an action plan to identify, prioritize, and protect critical areas for these three groups of species. **\$12 million over four years**
- Maintain strong science programs to inform conservation efforts. **\$6 million over four years**

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Invasive species – controlling economic, social & environmental impacts (Target 6)

Invasive species are one of the top drivers of biodiversity loss and cause catastrophic, often irreversible harm to native species. Invasive species cost North America over \$26 billion per year in damages, and more specifically ~\$2.2 billion annually to the Canadian agriculture sector. Proactive efforts to reduce the impacts will save money in the long run by avoiding larger losses to Canada's ecosystems and economy. Effective invasive species management is essential to halt and reverse nature loss. It will also bolster Canada's National Adaptation Strategy which identifies invasive pests as a growing threat to forests and fisheries.

Recommended Investment: \$250 million over five years to launch a comprehensive national program for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species management. [ECCC, PC, DFO, AAFC, NRCan, HC, CFIA, PS]

- **Prevent Introductions:** strengthen biosecurity at borders and key pathways (including climate-driven pathways) through rigorous screening, education, and outreach.
- **Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR):** establish a national EDRR framework with dedicated funding and teams for surveillance and rapid containment of incursions using modern tools (e.g., eDNA, digital reporting, machine learning) and Indigenous knowledge.
- **Cross-Sector Partnerships & Indigenous Leadership:** support collaboration among governments, NGOs, industry, and communities for invasive species control and habitat restoration. Empower Indigenous-led initiatives through the recognition of Indigenous stewardship and knowledge as vital for ecosystem resilience.
- **Science-based Management & Transparency:** invest in research, monitoring, and public reporting to develop an open data portal and/or citizen science portal to track invasive species spread and management.

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Monitoring, managing, and reducing underwater noise pollution (Target 7)

Recommended Investment: \$350 million over five years

- **\$25 million** to finalize and release the Ocean Noise Strategy via a thoroughly consulted Action Plan, including ecosystem-specific noise targets (e.g., Salish Sea, Saguenay–St. Lawrence, Eastern Arctic), and to launch regional noise management frameworks integrated across federal marine programs. [DFO, TC, PC]
- **\$200 million** to: reduce commercial vessel noise through expanded research and implementation programs like the Quiet Vessel Initiative; finalize the Underwater Vessel Noise Reduction Advisory Group; operationalize performance-based noise planning for vessel operators; and advance Canada's leadership at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on Underwater Radiated Noise and as co-lead of the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean. [TC]
- **\$125 million** to implement noise monitoring and management in priority marine areas, with integration into MPAs, OECMs, IPCAs, and Critical Habitat. Emphasize public data transparency, interjurisdictional coordination, and operational frameworks in collaboration with Transport Canada. [DFO, PC]

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Ratification and implementation of the High Seas Treaty (Targets 1,3,13,20)

Covering over half the globe and 64% of the global ocean, the high seas include ecologically vital yet critically threatened habitat, and the least protected areas on Earth. The High Seas Treaty is the first international and legally binding framework to protect high seas biodiversity and address current threats including pollution, overexploitation, and climate change.

In June 2023, the international community adopted the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction* (BBNJ Agreement, also known as the High Seas Treaty).

The treaty sets out a legal framework and process for establishing networks of marine protected areas in the ocean beyond national jurisdiction, helping to realize the KMGBF target of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030. Other provisions include environmental impact assessment, the marine genetic resources benefit sharing, and the transfer of marine technology.

Canada has been instrumental in treaty negotiations and signed the agreement in March 2024. Canada must now ratify the treaty. Prior to ratification, funding must be allocated to implement the new treaty, including for mandatory and other contributions as well as for internal negotiating and policy capacity.

Recommended Investment: \$25 million over five years, followed by \$6 million per year, ongoing [DFO, GAC, ISED]

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Meeting People’s Needs (KMGBF Targets 9-13)

Managing ocean fisheries (Target 10)

We can’t sustainably manage what we can’t measure. Healthy fisheries rely on accurate stock assessments, effective catch monitoring, and robust seafood traceability. These systems together provide the data needed to set science-based harvest limits, ensure compliance, detect illegal fishing, and verify sustainability. Canada needs to invest in these systems to protect fish stocks, support responsible harvesters, and maintain the integrity and competitiveness of Canada’s fisheries. While Fisheries and Ocean’s 2025/2026 Departmental plan establishes that the department will receive renewed funding of \$33.5 million over five years to implement the Fish Stocks Provisions, fisheries monitoring and traceability require a clear funding commitment.

Building a modern fisheries catch monitoring and observer system

Fisheries catch monitoring is essential for science, enforcement and compliance, improving business performance of fleets, and verifying of standards. Canada is supporting improved compliance and monitoring of countries around the world, however at home Canada’s fisheries monitoring is failing to achieve its target coverage levels. Electronic monitoring (EM) has been at the forefront of discussions on how to address shortcomings of the system and increase reliable catch data in Canada. There is industry and stakeholder interest in improving at-sea observer programs and developing EM standards and pilots, but resources are needed to prevent this work from stalling.

Recommended Investment: \$60 million over three years [DFO] to:

- Support up-front costs for EM pilot projects and increased coverage for high risk fisheries;
- Establish EM standards, data management policies, and modern data processing tools;
- Support recruitment for well-paying observer jobs; and
- Commit to dedicated capacity for coordination of work across regions.

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Keeping Canada's seafood competitive

Seafood is one of the most complex and highly traded commodities, and Canada plays a significant role as a harvester, exporter, and importer. However, Canada is falling behind its major trading partners in protecting our market from seafood linked to illegal fishing, environmental degradation, and human rights abuses. While other countries have implemented rigorous import controls and traceability requirements, Canada requires minimal information.

This regulatory gap puts our domestic fisheries and responsible companies at a competitive disadvantage. It also jeopardizes consumer trust and risks allowing illegal or unethical products to undercut Canadian producers - especially at a time when the federal government is supporting Canadian-sourced products in light of market disruption. Despite rising public demand for local and sustainable food, consumers currently lack the basic information needed to make informed seafood choices. The government must invest to level the playing field and to protect our economy and ecosystems.

Recommended Investment: \$150 million over five years [DFO, CFIA, AAFC] to:

- Establish strong seafood traceability regulations and import controls, consistent with requirements globally; and
- Implement mandatory seafood labelling requirements, including: the ocean region where it was caught or farmed, species name (common and scientific), and fishing/farming method.

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Freshwater management (Target 11)

Recommended Investment: At least \$1 billion over five years. This includes expanded funding for national watershed initiatives, innovation, technology, and regional watershed security efforts to support healthy waters across Canada.

- 1) Invest in the Freshwater Action Plan (FAP) to continue to build on earlier investments that improve water quality and quantity, restore aquatic ecosystems, and strengthen watershed governance. **\$700 million over five years** [ECCC, CWA, PC, DFO]
- 2) Invest in a Strategic Water Security Technology Fund to support the development and implementation of Canadian R&D, AI, data and monitoring tools, in partnership with the eNGO sector, to bolster made-in-Canada solutions to meet the water crisis head on, in a collaborative and sustainable way. **\$100 million over five years** [ECCC, CWA, PC, DFO, ISED]
- 3) Expand the BC Watershed Security Fund, scaling a proven, First Nations co-governed model for watershed security and climate resilience in the Pacific region. Building on existing investments by the Province of British Columbia and philanthropy, this investment would advance federal priorities including salmon recovery, freshwater and habitat restoration, climate resilience planning, support for locally led watershed boards and collaborative planning, and expansion of the good jobs, while reducing long-term disaster costs and protecting critical infrastructure. **\$200 million over five years** [ECCC, CWA, PC, DFO]
- 4) Advance additional funding for the Canada Water Agency to carry out its mandate and commitments in full capacity. [ECCC, CWA]

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Tools and Solutions (KMGBF Targets 14-23)

Reducing nature harmful subsidies (Target 18)

Each year, the federal government spends billions on subsidies to support a wide range of industries. By targeting 76 subsidies identified by economist Dave Sawyer as strong candidates for reform — worth about \$5.7 billion per year — governments could free up funds to meet other objectives or reprofile to programs that support rather than harming nature.³³ In a tight fiscal environment it will be important to reduce these subsidies carefully, while continuing to seek out non-harmful economic development opportunities. The Green Budget Coalition recommends a phased, practical approach to systematically identify and review harmful subsidies **in fiscal year 2026/27**, and remove or reform harmful subsidies **by the end of fiscal year 2027/28**. [FIN, ECCC, DFO, AAFC, NRCan]

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Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp (Target 19)

Recommended Investment: Increase the price of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to \$20 [ECCC]

Similar to the US Federal Duck Stamp,³⁴ the government-created Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp (“the Stamp”)—which migratory game bird hunters are required to purchase with their federal hunting permit—raises funds for conservation and draws attention to the importance of wildlife and their habitats. Since the inception of the Stamp Program in 1984, stamp and print sales have directly provided over \$64 million for wildlife habitat conservation across Canada. However, the price of the Stamp (\$8.50) has not changed since 1991. With CPI-adjustments, an \$8.50 Stamp in 1991 would cost almost \$16 in 2023. Additionally, inflation and a decline in the number of waterfowl hunters over this period have significantly weakened the effectiveness of Stamp funds for the protection of Canadian wetlands and wildlife habitat conservation, including migratory game bird habitat and other native species and at risk species.

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³³ Dave Sawyer, EnviroEconomics, “Bio-fiscal reform: Aligning federal subsidies in natural resource sectors with Canada’s biodiversity commitments”. July 7, 2025. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/104n1VL8cGwQXFPx7pqXG0u27yLPxSV/view>

³⁴ The US Federal Duck Stamp for 2025-2026 cost USD \$25.

Appendix 1 - Summary Table of Recommendations' Recommended Investments and Revenue Increases

millions of dollars

Recommendation Subrecommendation	Expected Lead Department(s)	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5-year total	Annual Continuing
Funding Indigenous climate and conservation leadership		To be determined through engagement with Indigenous Peoples.						
1A) CLIMATE COMPETITIVENESS - NOMINAL-COST FISCAL MEASURES								
Carbon pricing	ECCC, FIN, NRCan	No additional cost.						
Eliminating fossil fuel subsidies	FIN, ECCC, PMO, PCO, NRCan, ISED	No additional cost.						
Sustainable finance	FIN, ECCC	No additional cost.						
1B) CLIMATE COMPETITIVENESS - INVESTMENTS								
A modern, resilient East-West electricity grid based on renewables								
Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit - enhanced 50% ITC	NRCan, FIN	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	20,000	
Develop regional plans and cost-allocation frameworks	NRCan, FIN	500						
Match prov. funding for demand side management projects	NRCan, FIN	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	6,500	
Indigenous-led and -owned projects	NRCan, FIN	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000	
Climate resilient housing								
Retrofit programs	NRCan, HICC	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000	
Retrofits and energy efficiency upgrades in Indigenous communities	ISC, CMHC, CIB	540	540	540	540	540	2,700	
Sustainable career paths for workers								
Establish labour conditions for fast-tracked projects	MPO	No additional cost.						
Permanent Employment Insurance and Work Sharing enhancements	ESDC	334	333	333			1,000	
Data collection, analysis and modelling to inform planning	NRCan, ESDC, StatCan	2	2	2	2	2	10	
National heavy duty vehicle technician upskilling program	NRCan, ESDC, TC, HICC	20	20	20	20	20	100	
Transportation								
Collective transportation solutions								
National Public Transportation Strategy	TC	18	16	16			50	
Double public transit funding	HICC	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	30,000	6,000
High-speed rail	TC	34	33	33			100	
Building a national public charging network for EVs	NRCan		109	108	108		325	
Adapt the EV Affordability Program for more equity and efficiency								
EV Affordability Program	TC	460	460	460	460	460	2,300	
Public awareness campaign	NRCan, ECCC	10					10	
Marine shipping								
GHG Emission Reduction Innovation Fund	TC, NRCan	5	5				10	
Alternative fuels	TC, HICC	20	20	20	20	20	100	
Green port infrastructure	TC, ECCC, HICC	100	100	100	100	100	500	
Electronic Navigational Charts	DFO, ECCC, PC, TC	1	1	1			3	
Clean Shipping Corridors	TC, DFO, ECCC, GAC	20	20	20			60	
Heavy fuel oil and scrubbers initiative	ECCC, TC	2.5	2.5				5	
Cruise ship impacts	TC	3	3	2	2	2	12	
Measurement-based oil and gas methane data	ECCC, NRCan	6	5	5	5	5	26	
2) CLIMATE ADAPTATION								
Ramping up core adaptation investments	NRCan, ECCC, HC, PS, ISED, TC, CIRNAC	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	32,500	6,500
3) INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY FINANCE								
Canada's international climate and biodiversity finance								
International climate finance	GAC, ECCC	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	20,000	
International biodiversity finance	GAC, ECCC	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000	1,000
4) NATURE-POSITIVE AGRICULTURE								
Nature-positive agriculture: economic growth supporting biodiversity & climate resilience								
Empowering producers	AAFC	40	40	40	40	40	200	
Protecting natural capital	AAFC, ECCC, StatCan, NRCan, CIRNAC, PMO, PCO	32	32	32	32	32	160	
Building climate resilience	AAFC, ECCC, HC, ISC, CIRNAC, StatCan, NRCan	145	145	145	145	145	725	
Canada Organic Accelerator Initiative								
Production supports	AAFC, ECCC, HC, NRCan, StatCan	45	45	45	44	44	223	
Organic market development	GAC, AAFC, HC, ISED, DFO	9	9	9	9	9	45	
Market intelligence	StatCan, HC, CFIA, ISED, AAFC	2	2	2	2	2	10	
Publicly accessible portal development	StatCan, HC, CFIA, ISED, AAFC	5					5	
Standards and equivalence trade arrangements	CFIA, HC, AAFC, GAC, ISED, DFO	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	7.5	
5) TACKLING POLLUTION PRIORITIES								
Urgently renew funding for Canada's Chemicals Management Program	ECCC, HC	200	300	300	300	300	1,400	300
Combating plastic pollution	ECCC, DFO, TC, PSCP, CIRNAC, StatCan, HC, NRC, AAFC, PC	60	60	60	60	60	300	
Stabilizing resources for pesticide regulation								
Cost recovery	HC	-8.98	-8.98	-8.98	-8.98	-8.98	-44.9	-8.98
AI solutions	HC	2.5	2.5				5	
Canada's National Environmental Justice and Racism Strategy	ECCC	62	62	57	57	57	295	

6) NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION									
Delivering on nature commitments – protect and restore nature to catalyze a conservation economy									
Marine Conservation Targets	DFO, ECCC, PC, NRCan, TC, CIRNAC	200	200	200	200	200	1,000	200	
Enhanced Nature Legacy Fund	ECCC, PC, DFO, HICC, NRCan	500	500	500	500	500	2,500		
Long-term funding for Parks Canada	PC	135	135	135	135	135	675	400	
National Habitat Restoration Fund	ECCC, PC, NRCan, DFO, CIRNAC	50	50	50			150		
National Mapping and Monitoring	ECCC, StatCan, ISED, NRCan, DFO, PC	60	60	60	60	60	300		
Native Seed Sector	ECCC, NRCan, AAFC, ISED, ISC	10	10	10	10	10	50		
<i>Reducing Threats to Biodiversity (KMGBF Targets 1-8)</i>									
Ecological connectivity	PC, ECCC	24	24	24	24	24	120		
Habitat Infrastructure Renewal Fund	HICC, ECCC, PC	130	130	130	130		520		
Renew and expand NHCP	ECCC	50	50	50	50	50	250		
Canada Conservation Investment Fund	ECCC, PC, FIN	15	15	15	15	15	75	15	
Renewal for species at risk	ECCC, DFO, PC	10	10	10			30		
Halt and reverse losses of bird populations	ECCC	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5		30		
Invasive species	ECCC, PC, DFO, AAFC, NRCan, HC, CFIA, PS	50	50	50	50	50	250		
Underwater noise pollution	DFO, TC, PC	70	70	70	70	70	350		
High Seas Treaty	DFO, GAC, ISED	5	5	5	5	5	25	6	
<i>Meeting People's Needs (KMGBF Targets 9-18)</i>									
Managing ocean fisheries									
<i>Fisheries catch monitoring and observer system</i>	DFO	20	20	20			60		
<i>Keeping Canada's seafood competitive</i>	DFO, CFIA, AAFC	30	30	30	30	30	150		
Freshwater management									
Freshwater Action Plan	ECCC, CWA, PC, DFO	140	140	140	140	140	700		
Strategic Water Security Technology Fund	ECCC, CWA, PC, DFO, ISED	20	20	20	20	20	100		
BC Watershed Security Fund	ECCC, CWA, PC, DFO	40	40	40	40	40	200		
Canadian Water Agency additional funding	ECCC, CWA	Please contact authors for details.							
<i>Tools and solutions (KMGBF Targets 14-23)</i>									
Reducing nature harmful subsidies	FIN, ECCC, DFO, AAFC, NRCan	No additional cost.							
Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp	ECCC	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-10	-2	

Notes



- Chair (2025-26):** Robb Barnes, Climate Program Director, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Chair (2026-27):** Jessica McIlroy, Director, Government Relations, Pembina Institute
- Director:** Lisa Gue, Manager, National Policy, David Suzuki Foundation
- Director:** Anna Johnston, Staff Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law
- Director:** Akaash Maharaj, Director of Policy, Nature Canada
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