**Media Backgrounder**

For Immediate Release

September 17, 2025

**Report from Green Jobs BC Projects Huge Job Growth in Building Trades as Canada Moves to Low-Carbon Economy Amidst U.S. Tariffs**

**Report** *Jobs for Today - Canada’s Building Trades and The Net-Zero Transition*

**Key Findings** Investments to support Canada’s net-zero commitments by 2050 could generate up to 9.5 million job years of construction work, or 350,000 ongoing new jobs.

**Context**

Enormous investments in non-emitting energy production and transmission, energy-efficient buildings, and non-emitting transportation infrastructure will provide a historic boost to employment in building and construction trades over the next 25 years.

**Investments required to achieve Canada’s net-zero commitments by 2050:**

* 200,000 new MW of non-emitting generation capacity (hydro, wind, solar, nuclear, geothermal)
* 50,000 km of new and expanded transmission lines
* Adoption of advanced energy-efficient techniques and materials throughout ICI building construction
* Energy-saving retrofits on all existing ICI structures over 25 years
* Almost $50 billion cumulative investment in district energy systems
* Installation of 3.9 million electric vehicle chargers
* $180 billion cumulative investments in public transit infrastructure
* $50 billion+ investment in 1 to 3 high speed rail systems

**Overall employment effects of net-zero transition investments over 25 years:**

The report projects capital investments and resulting construction job creation up to 2050 in three main categories of energy-related activity: expanded generation and transmission of non-emitting energy, energy conservation technologies in new and retrofitted ICI (non-residential) buildings, and expanded infrastructure for non-emitting transportation (including electric vehicles, public transit, and inter-city rail).

Across these three broad categories, the report projects new work for construction and building workers in all trades totaling between 6.3 million and 9.5 million job years between now and 2050. That represents an average of up to 350,000 ongoing jobs over this period, equivalent to a permanent step increase of 20-30% in total current construction employment in Canada.

These job-creation estimates include only direct jobs in construction and operation of new facilities and buildings. Additional indirect jobs will be created in upstream supply chain industries (including manufacturing of building materials, electric vehicles, and other products related to the energy transition), and downstream consumer industries strengthened by the creation of millions of job years of new construction work. These indirect jobs are not counted in this report.

The economic push provided by investments in non-emitting energy, energy-efficient buildings, and transportation infrastructure will be even more important as Canada’s economy confronts uncertainty arising from Donald Trump’s tariffs and other policies.

**The Numbers**

 *Overall Employment Effects of Net-Zero Transition Investments 2024 to 2050*

|  | **Low** | **High** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Construction (000 job-years)** |  |  |
| Clean Energy Supply and Infrastructure | 2067 | 3101 |
| Energy-Efficient Communities | 2988 | 4482 |
| Decarbonized Transportation | 1270 | 1906 |
| **TOTAL** | **6326** | **9489** |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Low** | **High** |
| **Operation (000 jobs)** |  |  |
| Clean Energy Supply and Infrastructure | 60 | 90 |

Detailed breakdowns of the job forecasts in each category are provided in the report.

**The Training Challenge**

To provide the skilled workforce needed for the coming investments in non-emitting energy, energy-efficient buildings, and transportation infrastructure, the federal, provincial and territorial governments must invest much more in training qualified construction workers, and expanding the use of the Red Seal program to facilitate interprovincial mobility in the construction workforce.

**Ensuring the Energy Transition Produces Good Jobs**

* The transition to a net-zero economy will stimulate major job-creation for unionized skilled construction workers. It is important that labour standards are sustained and further improved in the growing non-emitting energy and energy conservation industries.
* The large public sector role in energy transition investments provides ample scope for attaching strong labour conditions and standards to these new projects.
* Building trades unions and community allies pioneered the use of innovative community benefit agreements (CBAs). CBAs compel contractors at large construction and infrastructure projects to offer good wages and benefits, apprenticeship and training opportunities, and targeted opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

**Building Trades and Net Zero Emissions**

* Canada’s ability to meet our climate goals will be based on the construction of new facilities for the generation of electricity using non-emitting sources, including hydro, wind, solar, nuclear, and geothermal energy.
* In addition, it will require the construction and maintenance of more energy-efficient buildings and transportation infrastructure.
* These net-zero investments will generate massive amounts of new work for all construction and building trades classifications -- including masons, boilermakers, pipefitters, insulators, electrical workers, glaziers, HVAC, linemen, ironworkers and others.

 **Contact**

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