

September 16, 2020

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Government of Canada  
Sent to: [chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Freeland,

The Pembina Institute has been and continues to be strongly supportive of the leadership the Government of Canada has demonstrated on assisting Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. This must remain our nation's top priority.

In the run-up to the Throne Speech this month we also want to confirm our support for federal efforts to align rebuilding with climate objectives by providing funding for reducing methane emissions and cleaning-up abandoned wells, and by imposing climate-related performance requirements on loans provided up the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) program. We commend your government's commitment to staying-the-course on the carbon price increase and the Clean Fuel Standard. We thank you, and Ministers Jonathan Wilkinson, Seamus O'Regan and Catherine McKenna, for your willingness to join other world and business leaders in supporting public investment in a green recovery as a strategy for creating more resilient jobs, communities, and economic opportunities.

In our [Green Stimulus](#) paper, and our engagement with federal representatives and other stakeholders and decision makers since the pandemic, Pembina has put forward a comprehensive series of recommendations on how this can be done in ways that maximize employment, investment, and emissions reduction.

We want to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the fact that we do not stand alone on these issues and ideas. Over the past few months an unprecedented level of broadly-based support has emerged across diverse groups -- including business, the environmental sector, labour and local communities -- for a recovery strategy that can increase both public and private investment in energy efficiency and the decarbonization of buildings, industry, and transportation and energy systems.

We also want to take this opportunity to recap three areas for investment we believe need to be prioritized to ensure Canada's recovery strategy addresses new public health and employment needs, as well as the need to achieve significant progress by 2030 on our commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050.

**1) Invest in building an inclusive, net-zero workforce.**

- Grow employment opportunities in sectors and services that will be in demand as the world seeks to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Focus training efforts on groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and in sectors of the Canadian economy that face new challenges in a world that is decarbonizing. These include women, youth, people of colour, new immigrants, Indigenous communities, and parts of traditional industrial and rural workforces.

Letter to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.  
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September 16, 2020 cont'd

**2) Invest in resilient, job-intensive, clean and natural infrastructure.**

- Grow economic activity in sectors with high jobs per dollar investment ratios, like retrofitting existing and building affordable but more energy efficient and climate-resilient homes and buildings.
- Plan and build the transportation and energy infrastructure that will enable Canada to leverage its current leadership in clean electrification to also be a leader in non-emitting movement of passengers and goods.
- Further decarbonize Canada's electricity system through investment in updated infrastructure, adoption of clean energy technologies, improved connectivity between provinces, and small-scale renewable energy generation, including in remote communities.
- Support self-sufficiency in large and small Canadian communities by developing the decentralized supply chains needed to build a clean economy, such as building components and batteries.
- Support Indigenous and community-based leadership in the development and deployment of new strategies for ecosystem health and restoration as an important tool for climate resilience and economic diversification.

**3) Invest in the development of industries and businesses producing, and scaling up, the use of low- and non-emitting goods and services.**

- Align support across sectors with commitments and plans to meet net-zero emissions.
- Grow Canadian expertise and next generation technology for emissions reduction (including hydrogen and carbon removal) in large, carbon-intensive industrial sectors (like steel and cement) and energy systems that are going to take longer to decarbonize.
- Grow Canadian leadership in manufacturing sectors that are already in demand, such as near-zero and zero-emissions vehicles.
- Grow Canadian exports of clean technology and clean energy.

The Pembina Institute is ready to support implementation of these and other related initiatives in whatever ways would be useful and appropriate. We have relationships and collaborations with business, investors, workers, and local and Indigenous communities committed to advancing measurable progress on meeting our 2030 climate ambition en route to net-zero emissions by 2050. We believe Canadians from all walks of life can be mobilized to embrace a recovery strategy that will reduce climate risk while diversifying our economy and creating many other important benefits.

Sincerely,



Linda Coady  
Executive Director

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Canada  
Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Canada  
Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Government of Canada  
Christine Tremblay, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada  
Sam Millar, Director General, Corporate Finance, Natural Resources & Environment, Finance Canada  
Erin Flanagan, Director, Climate, Energy and Regulatory Affairs, Environment & Climate Change Canada  
Bud Sambasivan, Senior Policy Advisor, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Finance, Government of Canada  
Kevin Deagle, Senior Policy Advisor, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Canada  
Joshua McNab, National Director, Policy and Strategy, Pembina Institute  
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