

BUDGET 2017 REVIEW COMMENTS FOR AFN ENERGY FORUM



Canadian
Environmental Law
Association
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[HTTP://GREENBUDGET.CA/](http://greenbudget.ca/)



The screenshot displays the homepage of the Green Budget Coalition website. The header features the text "The GREEN BUDGET COALITION" in a green and grey font, set against a background of green wavy lines and a tree icon. To the right of the header is a logo consisting of a tree silhouette above the words "GREEN BUDGET COALITION" in a white box. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "HOME", "WHO WE ARE", "BUDGET 2017", and "CONTACT", along with a "FRANÇAIS" language toggle. The main content area is mostly blank, with a grey footer containing the text: "The Green Budget Coalition (GBC) brings together 17 leading Canadian environmental organizations, to present an analysis of". On the right side of the footer, there is a small image of a loon on water, with the text "Recommendations for Budget 2017" and a list of logos below it.

The Green Budget Coalition (GBC) brings together 17 leading Canadian environmental organizations, to present an analysis of

Recommendations for Budget 2017

WHO WE ARE

The Green Budget Coalition brings together 17 leading Canadian environmental organizations, 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.

Contact Us

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WHAT GBC WAS LOOKING FOR IN 2017 BUDGET – SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS:

- To phase out fossil fuel subsidies
- To renew funding of \$1 billion annually to Natural Resources Canada for the Clean Energy Fund to finance renewable energy demonstration projects, and to fund renewable energy research, deployment and transmission across the country ongoing
- To invest \$400 million per year for the next five years to re-establish an energy efficiency home retrofit program, similar to the ecoENERGY Retrofit program, starting with the north and low income housing.
- To prioritize the deployment of renewable energy in northern and remote Indigenous communities that currently depend on expensive and polluting diesel electricity generation at \$60 million per year

WHAT GBC WAS LOOKING FOR IN 2017 BUDGET – SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS (2):

- 30% of Green Infrastructure funding for natural infrastructure investments
- 10% to the budget allocated to support the Pan-Canadian Framework for helping ecosystems adapt to climate change
- \$500 million over five years (including 2017/2018 expenditures) to support a National Indigenous Guardians Network and create an associated funding program for community-based Indigenous guardian systems adapt to climate change starting with \$25 million in the first year

BUDGET 2017 – WHAT'S BEEN ANNOUNCED

- Federal budget 2017 released March 22, 2017
- Budget 2017 proposes to provide \$21.4 million over four years, starting in 2018–19, to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada to continue the Northern Responsible Energy Approach for Community Heat and Electricity Program.
- \$220 million to reduce the reliance of rural and remote communities south of the 60th parallel on diesel fuel, and to support the use of more sustainable, renewable power solutions.
- an additional \$400 million in an Arctic Energy Fund to address energy security for communities north of the 60th parallel, including Indigenous communities.
- provide Natural Resources Canada with \$67.5 million over four years, starting in 2018–19, to renew and continue existing energy efficiency programs.

BUDGET 2017 ANNOUNCEMENTS REVIEW – 2-

- Establish a new Canadian Centre for Climate Services to improve access to climate science and regional climate resilience centres. The centres will work with provincial, territorial, Indigenous and other partners
- \$73.5 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, to Environment and Climate Change Canada and Natural Resources Canada to establish the Centre and build regional adaptation capacity and expertise.

BUDGET 2017 ANNOUNCEMENTS REVIEW – 3-

- A climate change and health adaptation program for First Nations and Inuit communities - \$18.0 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, to Health Canada for these purposes.
- Integrate traditional Indigenous knowledge to build a better understanding of climate change and to guide adaptation measures; enhance Indigenous community resilience through infrastructure planning and emergency management in those communities where flooding risks are increasing; and enhance resilience in northern communities by improving the design and construction of northern infrastructure. Budget 2017 proposes to provide Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada with \$83.8 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, to begin this work.

BUDGET 2017 ANNOUNCEMENTS REVIEW –

4-

- Budget 2017 proposes to invest an additional \$4 billion over 10 years, starting in 2018–19, to build and improve housing, water treatment systems, health facilities and other community infrastructure - through the second phase of green infrastructure and social infrastructure funding (funding allocations will be determined in partnership with Indigenous Peoples)
- Budget 2017 proposes to provide \$25 million over five years, starting in 2017–18, to support a pilot Indigenous Guardians Program - give Indigenous Peoples greater responsibility and resources to manage their traditional lands and waterways and will facilitate partnership with Indigenous communities in monitoring ecological health, maintaining cultural sites, and protecting sensitive areas and species.

BUDGET 2017 ANNOUNCEMENTS REVIEW - 5-

- Extend accelerated capital cost allowance to a broader range of geothermal projects and expenses.
- Expand the range of geothermal energy project expenses that are eligible as Canadian renewable and conservation expenses, which can be fully deducted in the year incurred.
- expenses associated with oil and gas discovery wells will be treated as Canadian development expenses, which are deducted gradually over time, rather than as immediately deductible
- Remove the tax preference that allows small oil and gas companies to reclassify Canadian development expenses as immediately deductible Canadian exploration expenses



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CELA works to protect human health and our environment by seeking justice for those harmed by pollution and by working to change policies to prevent such problems in the first place. For 40 years, CELA has used legal tools to increase environmental protection and safeguard communities. As a **Legal Aid Clinic**, our top priority is to represent low income individuals and communities and to speak out for those with less influence and who receive less of a say in decision-making.

Through **landmark legal cases** CELA has helped shape government and industry approaches to pollution and other environmental threats and has forced polluters to clean up their act. CELA has also been part of shaping **innovative collaborations** to improve sustainability and human health including the Low Income Energy Network, the Renewable is Doable group, the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment, the Water Guardians Network, and many more.

CELA's Lawyer Referral List

News and Events

Feb 08 2017

Webinar on March 2nd -
Lead in Drinking Water

Dec 23 2016

Healthy Great Lakes
Program Launch

Dec 19 2016