



How the Build Canada Budget 2025 Will Transform the Canadian Electrical Industry

By John W. Kerr, Kerrwil Media Limited

The 2025 Build Canada budget marks the most ambitious federal approach to electricity and electrification that Canada has seen in decades, setting the stage for accelerated workforce growth, domestic manufacturing scale-up, and sweeping modernization throughout the electrical sector. This budget will reshape both the utility and electrical construction landscape through expanded infrastructure investments, new Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credits, and targeted support for renewables and domestic production.

Electrical contractors and manufacturers should prepare for expanded opportunities in industrial, commercial, and residential markets, supported by policies designed to spark innovation and attract private capital. However, actual effects on housing starts and automation will depend on effective provincial and local policy implementation, signaling a need for close industry engagement as the details unfold.

The coming five years represent a pivotal transition for Canada's electrical industry. With government, utilities, and the private sector aligned for rapid growth, stakeholders should expect rising project volumes, technology adoption, and workforce expansion. Urgent priorities include advancing training programs, ramping up recruitment, refocusing manufacturing, and preparing for more public procurement and clean energy adoption as the sector modernizes at unprecedented pace.

The 2025 "Build Canada" budget is the most ambitious federal agenda for electricity and electrification in decades—catalyzing workforce growth, manufacturing scale-up, and industry-wide modernization.

Top 8 Takeaways

Historic Investment in Electricity Infrastructure

Ottawa is investing an unprecedented \$280 billion over five years in infrastructure, with a significant portion allocated for power grids, grid modernization, and electrification. This level of spending marks a major boost for both public and private utility projects.

Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit Finalized

The Clean Electricity ITC, long awaited by industry stakeholders, will now be accessible to a broader range of investors—including municipalities and Indigenous corporations—establishing stable incentives and spurring project growth in renewables and interprovincial transmission.

Surge in Opportunities for Electrical and Utility Contractors

With new grid and infrastructure builds, utilities and electrical contractors can anticipate growing demand for expertise in transmission, generation, storage, and advanced energy retrofits—with strong needs for both union and independent operators.

Support for Canadian Electrical Manufacturers

“Buy Canadian” procurement priorities and \$2 billion for a Critical Minerals Sovereign Wealth Fund mean more opportunities for domestic manufacturers of transformers, switchgear, and automation equipment, provided they meet administrative and content guidelines.

Housing and Commercial Construction Stimulus

Spending on affordable housing and public infrastructure will indirectly drive demand for electrical installation, construction, and service, particularly related to retrofits and large-scale building projects.

Labour Demand Set to Rise Sharply

Over the next five years, an estimated 28,000 new electrical sector workers will be needed, with particularly high demand for electricians, high-voltage technicians, and pole line contractors as retirements and project starts outpacing the current pipeline.

Training, Apprenticeship, and Workforce Expansion

The budget includes support programs and training investments to accelerate apprenticeships, address bottlenecks, and boost workforce participation by under-represented groups, which is critical as vacancies and skills gaps widen.

Stronger Emphasis on Clean Tech and R&D

Enhanced tax credits for R&D, expedited capital cost write-offs, and expanded support for cleantech demonstration projects will fuel innovation in controls, metering, building automation, and smart grid components.