



Driving the Future of the RV Industry

The Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association (RVDA) of Canada is a national, volunteer federation of provincial and regional RVDA associations and their members who have united to form a professional trade association for all businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry.

The core objective of the RVDA of Canada is to bring together and represent the retail businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry across Canada, thus providing the support and strength to protect and promote the interests and welfare of Canadian RV Dealers, and to maximize the potential of the industry for all involved.

RVing and camping in Canada generate considerable economic benefits. The manufacturing, purchasing, servicing, and use of recreation vehicles contribute billions to the Canadian economy each year. In 2019, the RV sector directly and indirectly supported an estimated 67,200 jobs and delivered \$4.8 billion in added economic value to the Canadian economy from an initial expenditure of \$6.2 billion. There are over 4,231 campgrounds operated across Canada, each offering a unique experience for Canadians and international visitors.



Key Messaging

Increasing Support for Skilled Workers

One of the chokepoints of the Canadian economy is the severe lack of skilled workers and tradespeople. Technicians play a central role in keeping RVs moving, and less than half have their Red Seal Designation.

RV service technician apprenticeship training is only available in British Columbia and Alberta. Programs quickly reach full enrollment, leaving dozens of additional students on waiting lists.

Measures such as the Canada Training Benefit, more funding for Skills Canada and the new apprenticeship strategy will help Canadians get the skills they need.

Recommendation:

- The Government of Canada should create an Apprenticeship Travel Grant that could be used by those who are required to travel to undertake an apprenticeship training program
- A Labour Mobility Tax Grant of up to \$4000 per year to support temporary relocation within Canada by Skilled Trades People should be made available for those that are temporality relocating to pursue their apprenticeship training and Red Seal certification.

Supporting our National Parks and Tourism Sector

The Canadian government should invest in camping and RV infrastructure in National Parks to support the tourism sector. Currently, 75% of campsites lack necessary services for RVs, and upgrading infrastructure will drive growth in RV activities, create jobs, and benefit rural regions. Investing in campground infrastructure will also incentivize tourism and boost the economies of smaller communities.

In summary, targeted investment in National Parks infrastructure will promote RV activities, boost the tourism industry, create jobs, and stimulate regional economic growth, benefiting smaller communities across Canada.

Recommendation:

- As RVing is a large component of tourism, investment in camping and RVing infrastructure will play a crucial role in the overall contributions of the tourism. Upgrades in infrastructure are essential if we want to be able to ensure the future of this industry and make it more accessible to all Canadians.
- Make a public and significant commitment to the electrification of campgrounds across Canada. This will contribute immediately to the transition towards electric recreational vehicles and zero-emissions campgrounds.
- Empower regional communities that are seeking to create, update or modernize camping and RV infrastructures.

Support for EV Charger Network Expansion into rural Areas

EV charging systems located in vulnerable areas outside of the most heavily populated urban regions throughout Canada, would assist the alignment of EV and alternative fuel infrastructure and make it easier for drivers, including RVers, to travel in North America using green vehicles and green technology.

Recommendation:

- While budget 2023 allocates \$108 million to support communities and small businesses wishing to invest in their infrastructure, the amount allocated for financial support is minimal. Rural communities need more money because of the magnitude of the issues they are facing.
- The government must continue to provide financial supports to increase electrical infrastructure in rural areas by providing financing and grants to business that are investing in the EV infrastructure.

