



Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of Canada

Pre-Budget Submission 2022

August 2021



Recommendation 1: As the vaccination campaign ramps up across the country, the federal government needs to provide continuous support to struggling businesses and workers until the summer of 2022 to ensure long-term business continuity.

Recommendation 2: Economists agree that recovery post-crisis will slow and choppy, therefore the government should make investments now to facilitate economic recovery in the next couple of years. The recovery measures need to include incentives for RV purchase and RVing post-crisis as well as investment in RV and camping infrastructure across Canada.

Recommendation 3: Due to the geographic constraints of the existing programs, 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. This Grant should be targeted towards those enrolled in programs that are not offered in their city, town or province.

Recommendation 4: This Grant should be a taxable cash grant of **\$2,000-\$4,000** per person per year to provide support for such items as travel costs, lodging, and care arrangements for families

Recommendation 5: As RVing is a large component of tourism, both internationally and domestically, investment in camping and RVing infrastructure will play a crucial role in the overall contributions of the tourism industry to future economic development and prosperity post-COVID-19. 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.



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2021 Pre-Budget Submission

About the RVDA of Canada:

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 in Canada also has a considerable impact on the Canadian economy. The manufacturing, purchasing, servicing, and use of recreation vehicles contribute billions – both directly and indirectly – to the Canadian economy each year. In 2019, the RV industry supported 67,200 jobs and there was \$6.2 billion in total spending, which generated over \$4.8 billion in added value to the Canadian economy. There are over 4,231 campgrounds operated across Canada, each offering a unique experience for Canadians and international visitors.

The implementation of the RVDA's recommendations in this document will contribute significantly to the RV industry's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and ensure the continued success of the RV and camping industry in Canada. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the RV sector and to facilitate recovery, we recommend that the federal government introduces a robust recovery package to jumpstart the RV and camping industry through incentive programs to encourage RV purchase and investment in camping infrastructure. This stimulus program should include continuous support for struggling businesses at least until summer 2022, and support for skilled workers as well as investment in public campground facilities.



2021 Budget Recommendations

1. COVID-19 Support

- The Canadian economy is reeling from the devastating economic impact of COVID-19. Virtually, all sectors of the economy have been hit hard and no business has been spared.
- The impact of the global pandemic has been particularly severe for the RV sector in Canada. RV sales were down by close to 9 percent last year and inventory shortage remains a serious concern for the outlook of RV sales this year.

Recommendation:

- As the vaccination campaign ramps up across the country, the federal government needs to provide continuous support to struggling businesses and workers until the summer of 2022 to ensure long-term business continuity.
- Economists agree that recovery post-crisis will slow and choppy, therefore the government should make investments now to facilitate economic recovery in the next couple of years. The recovery measures need to include incentives for RV purchase and RVing post-crisis as well as investment in RV and camping infrastructure across Canada.

2. Increased Support for Skilled Workers in the RV Industry

- The shortage of skilled workers remains a key concern for the RV industry and COVID-19 has exacerbated the availability of training programs for apprentices.
- Currently, out of 1020 full-time RV service technicians throughout Canada only 424 with Red Seal Designation.
- There are currently only two programs in Canada that offer RV service technician apprenticeship training – in British Columbia and Alberta. Each of these programs provides Red Seal Designation that is accepted nationwide.
- The existing programs reach full enrollment each year and often hold waiting lists for additional several dozen prospective students.
- Training programs are offered in other provinces but they are not accepted as full apprenticeship programs. As a result, few RV service technicians who actually work in the industry are classified as apprentices.
- We applaud the government for the focus on skills and training in the previous budgets. Measure such as Canada Training Benefit, more funding for Skills Canada and the new apprenticeship strategy will help Canadians get the skills they need.
- We look forward to continuing working in close partnership with the government to increase support for skilled workers in the RV industry



Recommendation:

- Due to the geographic constraints of the existing programs, **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. This Grant should be targeted towards those enrolled in programs that are not offered in their city, town or province.
- This Grant should be a taxable cash grant of **\$2,000-\$4,000** per person per year to provide support for such items as travel costs, lodging, and care arrangements for families

3. Critical infrastructure in our national parks and tourism investment to support the RV industry is needed

- The Government of Canada should provide targeted and dedicated investment in camping/RV infrastructure in Canada's National Parks. The 119 Federal campgrounds are comprised of over 10,800 campsites. Of these sites, 7911 or 80% remain unserviced.
- As campground services continue to rise in demand, critical infrastructure needs -such as sizing requirements to accommodate larger RVs and access to appropriate electrical outlets and waste disposal facilities -remain unfunded.

Recommendation:

- As RVing is a large component of tourism, both internationally and domestically, investment in camping and RVing infrastructure will play a crucial role in the overall contributions of the tourism industry to future economic development and prosperity post-COVID-19. 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.