Canadian Propane Association | Association canadienne du propane

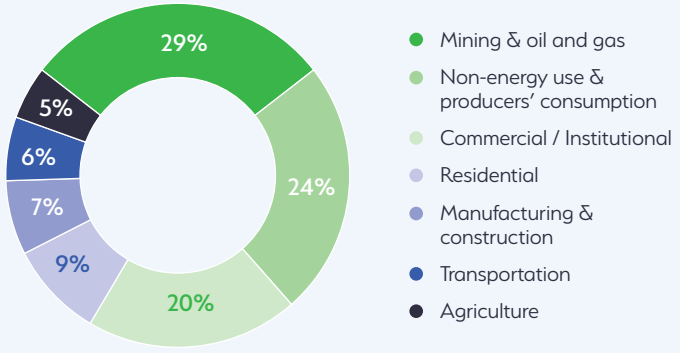
CPA Recommendations

2025 Federal Election Campaign

Propane provides critical energy from coast to coast to coast

From communities beyond the natural gas grid in Atlantic Canada to farms across the Prairies, oil and gas production in Alberta and British Columbia, mining sites in Northen Ontario and rural hospitals in Quebec, Canadian propane plays a vital role in powering essential industries and daily life across the country.

Propane demand by sector



Unlocking propane's potential at home and abroad

In the wake of across-the-board U.S tariffs, it's more critical than ever that goods and services move seamlessly within Canada and beyond.

Propane is the identical product from coast to coast to coast. Yet a patchwork of conflicting and overlapping regulations creates unnecessary barriers, complicates cross-border operations, and adds avoidable costs. We must work to remove interprovincial barriers that impede the efficient movement of propane across the country, improve our export markets, and provide energy choice for all Canadians.

Removing barriers, driving growth: CPA's federal policy agenda

The Canadian Propane Association is advocating for three key recommendations to streamline regulations, eliminate trade barriers, and strengthen the economy.

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Recommendations

1. Free Trade Begins at Home

• Accelerate Red Seal certification adoption and harmonize provincial codes

A national certification framework can help standardize gas fitter qualifications across the provinces while recognizing the skills of experienced workers who are currently working in the trade.

Recommendation: *Accelerate the adoption of the national Red Seal Certification for licensed gas fitters and collaborate with provinces on outstanding code alignments thus ensuring that qualified tradespeople can work anywhere in Canada without re-certification.*

• Mandate provincial alignment with CSA Code

Many provinces enforce federal requirements, national codes, and additional provincial regulations simultaneously. Varying provincial regulations alongside federal requirements create conflicts, increasing the risk of non-compliance.

Recommendation: *Require provinces to fully adopt the CSA code without deviations or provincial-specific regulations.*

• Achieve Canadian Registration Number (CRN) provincial harmonization

Propane tanks and equipment are already certified and carry a CRN, yet provinces continue to impose additional inspection requirements, creating unnecessary complexity. These added measures are redundant, as propane equipment already complies with over 140 codes and standards to achieve approval.

Recommendation: *Use existing CRN requirements without imposing additional provincial requirements.*

• Streamline permitting: One permit for propane installations

Requiring separate gas and boiler permits for the same propane installation is redundant and is often handled by the same authority. A single permit covering both would streamline processes, reduce bureaucracy, and lower costs for industry and consumers.

Recommendation: *Consolidate gas and pressure vessel permits into a single application to simplify the approval process.*

• Create national licensing for propane workers

Many provinces require propane workers—such as bulk truck operators, bulk plant operators, and construction heater personnel—to complete approved propane training. However, in addition to these standardized training requirements, they must also apply for a separate provincial license to work, adding unnecessary bureaucracy without improving safety.

Recommendation: *Utilize an approved training certificate that recognizes propane worker qualifications across all provinces without additional licensing requirements.*

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2. Diversifying our Exports

- **Support the expansion of Canadian propane exports**

Canada exports over 60% of its propane production, amounting to approximately 220,000 barrels per day. While the United States remains a primary destination, exports to Asian markets have grown significantly, now accounting for 42% since 2018. Globally, propane is increasingly valued for its ability to lower greenhouse gas emissions while providing a reliable and cost-effective energy option.

Recommendation: *Develop and implement robust policy measures and export strategies to ensure Canada meets the growing propane demand in growing propane demand in global markets such as South Korea and Japan.*

3. Ensure Affordable Energy Choice

- **Provide affordable energy choice for rural Canadians**

The 2021 Census found that 822,000 Canadian households (5.6%) faced energy poverty, with even higher rates in Atlantic Canada (10.7% to 13.7%) due to limited access to affordable energy options. Many rural areas across the country experience similar challenges.

Recommendation: *Provide rural Canadians with real, affordable energy options by including propane in policies and programs designed to lower energy costs and emissions.*

- **Make affordable and lower-emission propane available to Indigenous communities**

Diesel—a high-emission and subsidized fuel—is widely used in remote communities, many of which are Indigenous.

Statistics Canada reports that 12.9% of on-reserve households experience energy poverty, more than double the national average. Additionally, millions are spent annually on remediation costs linked to diesel, a risk not associated with propane, which poses no harm to air, land, or water if released into the atmosphere, making it an ideal primary or back-up fuel.

Recommendation: *Ensure propane is part of the energy choice for Indigenous communities looking to transition from diesel or heating oil to lower-carbon energy sources.*

About the Canadian Propane Association

The Canadian Propane Association is the national association representing the Canadian propane industry. With approximately 400 members across Canada, the CPA represents every segment of a growing, multi-billion-dollar propane industry that impacts the livelihood of Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

As the trusted voice of the propane industry, we create the conditions for responsible market growth through advocacy, training, and emergency response.

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