

Millani has completed a review of the 2023 Federal Budget, and below is a summary intended to highlight some of the most important ESG-related commitments.



Growing Canada's Biofuels Sector

In the Budget, the federal government has pledged to engage with the biofuels industry to explore opportunities for its growth in Canada. The exploration will review various support mechanisms, including tax credits, loans, and grants, to help the industry grow and meet the increasing demand for low-emission fuels.

Supporting Clean Electricity Projects

The Budget has promised to provide \$3.0 billion over 13 years, starting in 2023-24, to Natural Resources Canada to support the [Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program](#). The program provides funding for critical regional priorities and Indigenous-led projects, the renewal of the Smart Grid program to continue to support electricity grid innovation, and the creation of new investments in science-based activities to help capitalize on Canada's offshore wind potential.



Fair Pay for Workers Who Build the Clean Economy



Businesses may be eligible to receive tax credits for investments in clean technology and clean hydrogen equipment by paying their employees prevailing wages and ensuring that they create apprenticeship opportunities. The Budget defines prevailing wages as wages equal or greater to the most recent union compensation package, including benefits and pension contributions, in the jurisdiction within which relevant labour is employed. Additionally, a registered apprentice in a [Red Seal trade](#) must complete at least 10% of the tradesperson hours.

Supporting Indigenous Governance and Capacity

The Budget proposes to provide \$76.3 million in 2023-24 to support the administrative capacity of First Nations governments and tribal councils that deliver critical programs and services to their members. The program aims to increase First Nations governments' ability to meet their communities' needs and provide the services and programs their communities rely on.



Privy Council Appoints a New Inclusion Secretariat



There are three components to this proposal. First, the Budget proposes a new Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion Secretariat for the Privy Council, which will ensure that federal government policies include considerations for anti-racism, equity and inclusion. Second, the Budget proposes that the Department of Canadian Heritage continue to support Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy. Third, the Budget outlines that the federal government is setting funds aside to help Public Safety Canada enhance the [Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program](#).

Progress on Biodiversity

The Budget upholds the announcement made by the Government of Canada at COP15 to implement over \$1.5 billion in new funding for biodiversity and conservation measures in Canada and abroad. The program will support the implementation of the [Global Biodiversity Framework](#), which includes \$800 million to support Indigenous-led conservation within Canada.

