Sustainable Buildings Canada

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Building a Stronger Canada Without Sacrificing Our Climate Goals

With the federal election behind us and Mark Carney tasked with helping guide Canada through the uncertainty of President Trump's second term, the national focus is shifting—rightfully—toward strengthening our economy and reducing our dependence on the United States. A key part of this strategy will be growing and innovating Canadian industry while expanding trade partnerships with countries that share our values and recognize the mutual benefits of working together.

Importantly, many of these nations also believe that economic growth does not have to come at the expense of our climate commitments or the urgent need to cut carbon emissions.

Many of these countries—including Germany, Sweden, and Denmark have proven that economic resilience and climate responsibility are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are increasingly interdependent.

Germany, for example, has managed to cut its emissions by more than 45% from 1990 levels while remaining Europe's largest and most advanced economy. Sweden has steadily grown its GDP while pushing toward net-zero emissions by 2045. And Denmark, a global leader in wind energy, generates over half of its electricity from renewables and is well on track to meet its ambitious 2030 reduction targets.
Canada has every opportunity to chart a similar course. A key pillar of our economic strength will be solving the housing crisis. Politicians from all parties and levels of government now agree: we need more homes—and fast. But more importantly, we need smarter homes. Homes that are affordable, accessible to aging populations, and built to last in a changing climate.

At Sustainable Buildings Canada, we believe the future of housing must be sustainable. By integrating low-carbon construction, retrofitting existing building stock, and striving for top tier energy efficiency standards, we can build homes that reduce emissions, are more affordable to heat and cool, and support growth and innovation in the building industry —all at the same time.

This is also a moment for Canada to lead by example. By showing the world that it's possible to build a strong, inclusive, and green economy, we can attract the best and brightest talent—especially those recently displaced by the Trump administration's anti-science agenda. This includes the hundreds of scientists and climate experts who were

contributing to the U.S. government's flagship climate report, only to see their efforts undermined. It's yet another example of the administration's failure to see the global opportunity of linking environmental responsibility to economic prosperity. Let's send a clear message: Canada is open to climate champions and sees them as critical to delivering sustainable, affordable housing. Let's welcome these experts and give them the opportunity to contribute to a country that sees sustainability as a strength, not a liability.

The path forward is clear. A stronger, more resilient Canada isn't just compatible with bold climate action—it depends on it.

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About Sustainable Buildings Canada:

For more than 20 years Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) has been a leader in advancing sustainability, enabling designers, developers, builders, and operators to achieve high-performance outcomes. The organization's efforts result in healthy spaces, reduced energy and water use, clean and renewable energy integration, and positive behavioural outcomes. More information can be found at: https://sbcanada.org.

About Brynn Nheiley:

As Executive Director of Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) Brynn Nheiley has more than 20 years of experience in the field of sustainable design and development.