



## **Alert: Federal Fall Economic Statement: Highlights for Plumbing and Heating**

On December 16, 2024 the Federal government tabled its Fall Economic Statement (FES). The 2024 Fall Economic Statement presents several opportunities for our industry:

1. **Increased Demand for Energy-Efficient Products:** Expanded funding for housing and energy programs underscores the importance of innovative solutions.
2. **Support for Innovation:** Enhanced SR&ED credits and SME digital adoption programs create avenues for technological advancement.
3. **Infrastructure Investments:** Federal funding for wastewater treatment plants and affordable housing projects will drive demand for plumbing products and expertise.
4. **Streamlined Regulations:** Reductions in regulatory red tape and refined environmental assessments will lower barriers for industry growth.

Read below for more details, including links to priority documents:

### **Canada Greener Homes Program Expansion**

The program will deliver an additional \$600 million in interest-free loans, supporting 15,000-24,000 homeowners in reducing energy costs. This aligns with Canada's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. For our industry, this initiative represents a growing demand for energy-efficient heating and plumbing solutions.

### **Canada Secondary Suite Loan Program**

The loan limit for this program will double to \$80,000, encouraging homeowners to invest in secondary suites. This could lead to increased demand for plumbing products and expertise.

### **Affordable Housing Projects**

- **Winnipeg North End Sewage Treatment Plant:** \$150 million over four years (starting 2026-2027).
- **Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in Metro Vancouver:** \$250 million over five years (starting 2025-2026).

These investments in critical infrastructure will create more regional opportunities for manufacturers and distributors of plumbing products.

### **Enhancements to the SR&ED Program**



Changes to the Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) program include increasing the annual expenditure limit to \$4.5 million and expanding eligibility for enhanced refundable credits. This is expected to inject \$1.9 billion into the economy over six years, supporting innovation in water and energy-efficient technologies.

### **Support for SMEs**

\$500 million over four years will be allocated to help small and medium enterprises adopt digital technologies, including artificial intelligence. Plumbing and heating companies can leverage this funding to modernize operations and improve productivity.

### **Countering tariff treats, investing in Border Security**

A \$1.3 billion border security package will enhance cross-border trade and supply chain efficiency. This measure is critical for our industry's ability to access international markets and maintain competitive pricing, especially in the face of potential cross-border tariffs in 2025.

### **Forced Labour Supply Chain Measures**

The federal government will introduce legislation requiring businesses to scrutinize their supply chains for forced labour risks. CIPH members will need to ensure compliance and transparency within their supply chains.

### **Red Tape Reduction**

The FES proposes \$27.8 million over five years for a new regulatory modernization effort. Engagement opportunities will allow businesses, including those in the plumbing and heating sector, to shape regulatory improvements.

- The 2024 Fall Economic Statement announces the federal government will publish a list of specific, restrictive measures that each province and territory has in place that are preventing trade within Canada, and will consider applying conditions on major federal transfers to provinces and territories requiring the elimination of specific barriers to interprovincial trade and labour mobility.

The 2024 Fall Economic Statement announces that the Minister of Finance, Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs will lead a review of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement to ensure it remains helpful for Canada's national economic interest in the face of evolving global trade uncertainties.

- [Backgrounder: Investing in Jobs and Growth](#)
- [Backgrounder: Protecting Jobs and Our Economy](#)