

Why you should care about the Sustainable Jobs Act



The world of work is changing — fast

- New tariffs and global shifts are hitting Canadian industries hard, and thousands of workers have already been laid off in the steel and auto sectors.
- Oil and gas production now creates far fewer jobs, and together with declining markets, this is reshaping how the industry operates and who works in it.
- Governments are fast-tracking major projects, generating demand for labour in the construction trades.
- Meanwhile, the impacts of climate change are becoming more visible, youth unemployment is high, older workers are retiring, and skills shortages are holding industries back.



We need a plan for workers to navigate these changes as they unfold. Without a plan, workers get left behind. We've seen it before in fisheries, forestry, and manufacturing. This time, we can do better by ensuring workers are positioned for success in the clean economy.



What's the Act all about?

The Sustainable Jobs Act makes it the law for the federal government to publish a five-year plan to help workers through these shifts. That could mean:

- more training support that lines up with real job opportunities
- supports for workers when industries or plants shut down
- a say for unions, Indigenous groups, and communities at the decision-making table
- investments that create stable, good jobs in the industries of the future



Why it matters for you and your community

This is about building high-quality jobs that last:

- » **Security:** knowing you'll still have a good job when the economy changes
- » **Fairness:** making sure new industries benefit Canadian workers, not just shareholders
- » **Opportunity:** opening doors for young people, new Canadians, Indigenous workers, and others too often left on the sidelines
- » **Community survival:** ensuring small towns and resource-dependent places aren't hollowed out again



What the plan needs to deliver

- Real supports like better Employment Insurance, early retirement options, and re-training programs.
- Public investments that come with fair wages, placements for apprentices, and union protections.
- Growth strategies for industries like EVs, clean steel, renewable power, and building retrofits.
- A fair share for Indigenous communities and equity-deserving groups.

If you care about what kind of work Canadians will be doing in 2030 — and whether those jobs are secure, fair, and local — you should care about the Sustainable Jobs Act.

More in [Pembina's submission to the 2026-2030 Sustainable Jobs Action Plan Consultation](#)