



June 5, 2025

His Worship Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor, City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

Re: Strategic Energy Investments to Power Ottawa's Innovation Economy

Dear Mayor Sutcliffe,

As President and CEO of Invest Ottawa, the lead economic growth agency for knowledge-based industries in Canada's Capital, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Ottawa's commitment to prioritizing and accelerating the development of future-ready energy infrastructure.

We are entering a decisive chapter for our city, our province, and our country. It is one defined by global trade tension, rapid technological transformation, urgent climate action, and intensifying global competition. In this moment, energy is not simply a utility. It is one of the most powerful economic and strategic assets of our time.

As we work to build a capital of global opportunity and shared prosperity, the sustained growth of Ottawa's innovation economy—and the attraction of new companies, investment, and talent—now hinges on the availability of scalable, reliable, low-carbon power.

Our region is home to globally competitive companies in semiconductors, optics, AI, advanced manufacturing, defence and cybersecurity. These firms—many headquartered or clustered in or around Kanata North Tech Park, Bayview Yards and Area X.O—depend on uninterrupted, high-quality energy to operate complex testing environments, data-rich platforms, and cutting-edge R&D infrastructure. Without sufficient energy capacity and resilience, even our most promising firms may be forced to slow their growth, relocate critical operations, or lose investment opportunities to competing jurisdictions. This would be detrimental to our economy.

This is why the proposed Green Community Energy Resilience District and utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)—including the West Carleton project—are not just infrastructure investments; they are critical economic drivers that will power the next phase of Ottawa's growth.

These investments will:

- Enable the growth and expansion of firms that are already among our most significant job creators and GDP contributors
- Strengthen Ottawa's competitive advantage in attracting new foreign direct investment, particularly in sectors with high energy intensity and zero-carbon mandates
- Help anchor future sovereign, security-critical assets such as data centres, AI supercomputing, and semiconductor fabrication in our region
- Advance Ottawa's role in supporting Canada's climate goals and clean energy transition—while accelerating growth and innovation
- Directly support the attraction and retention of top global talent, as firms gain the capacity to scale, compete, and offer long-term career opportunities in our city.

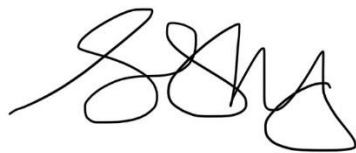
Prime Minister Carney, who also serves as the MP for Nepean and home of Area X.O, has championed a bold ambition to position Canada as an energy superpower—not only through fossil fuels, but through renewable innovation, electrification, storage, and resilience. Ottawa can and must lead in this national vision, leveraging our concentration of world-class research, clean tech entrepreneurship, and digital infrastructure to demonstrate how a capital city powers a 21st-century economy.

As an agency committed to helping founders, companies and communities thrive and succeed, I can say with confidence that energy security is an urgent and foundational issue we face today. It is directly linked to job creation, revenue generation, economic resilience, and our long-term prosperity.

We strongly encourage the City of Ottawa to prioritize and champion investments in strategic energy infrastructure as essential drivers for our future economy. These decisions will shape our competitiveness for decades to come.

Thank you for your leadership, your partnership, and your commitment to ensuring Ottawa thrives as a global hub of innovation, investment, and inclusive economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Shorey', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sonya Shorey
President and CEO
Invest Ottawa