



## The HVACR Industry in Canada

The Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) industry is essential to the lives of Canadians. Citizens, businesses, building owners, institutions and government benefit daily from the services provided by members of HRAI, the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada. The HVACR industry generates over \$7 billion in the Canadian economy and employs over 41,500 people. Our economy and society depend on this industry to function but, because they are out of sight for most Canadians, our products and services are often taken for granted.

### HVACR Matters!

The HVACR industry is an integral part of nearly every economic and social sector in Canada. Our members keep homes and offices comfortable, but they do so much more for the economy as a whole. They ensure climate management in the global supply chains that get agricultural products from farms to market; they provide refrigeration processes required for the advancement of science and medicine; they supply the advanced air conditioning required by commercial server rooms that keep Canada at the cutting edge of IT infrastructure and our telecommunications systems online. Without these services and products, Canada's economy would not be able to compete globally.

### Canadian Indoor Climate Systems and Canadian Climate Change Goals

The federal government has set the ambitious goal of reducing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions 30% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Much of this goal will be met through investments in improving the energy performance of buildings. Among the leading technologies for improving energy performance are HVACR products and processes, and the industry is prepared to engage with government in the pursuit of sustainable solutions.

HVACR industry solutions that will assist in meeting Canada's policy goals include the following:

1. Advancement of energy efficient products, including...
  - a. Appliances that meet increasingly stringent standards
  - b. Advanced ("smart") building control systems that optimize performance
2. Development and promotion of installation and design standards that improve HVACR system performance
3. Training of industry personnel on proper design and installation procedures
4. Refrigerant management systems that reduce ODP and GHG emissions

***HRAI and its members stand ready to work with the federal government to develop and implement programs and policies that support sustainable growth of a low-carbon, energy efficient economy.***

## Regulatory Harmonization

While the HVACR industry works constructively with governments to advance the energy performance of its products, HRAI members believe that advancement of these goals should be done in harmony with the United States and among provinces. Failure to do so creates unnecessary burdens on industry, increases costs to, and limits product choices for Canadians.

*HRAI is supportive of the work of the Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) and its emphasis on harmonization of regulations with the US. HRAI also supports a more aggressive federal role in promoting harmonization of standards, codes and regulations among provinces.*

## Human Resources Development

The HVACR industry provides stable, well-paid and challenging careers, but this is not widely known among youth choosing their careers. Skilled labour shortages have plaguing our industry and incentives for certified tradespeople to update and upgrade their skills are limited. Installing and upgrading advanced HVACR systems to homes, businesses and in government infrastructure is an important part of meeting our national energy efficiency and GHG emissions targets.

*HRAI recommends that governments should invest in measures to help trades-based industries like the HVACR sector to attract, train and retain personnel to meet emerging market transformation challenges.*

## Working with the HVACR Sector

HRAI has a strong history of working with government on key issues as they arise and is eager to aid and advise in a progressive way going forward. Our industry is ready to work to advance issues, identify areas of concern for government, and help to solve difficult challenges that will not be met through public policy changes and modified incentive structures alone.

*HRAI asks that, over the coming years, government consult proactively to ensure that those with the knowledge of these systems and the opportunities they create be consulted in the development of policies and programs affecting the Canadian marketplace.*

## About HRAI-Canada

Founded in 1968, the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) is a non-profit national trade association of manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors in the Canadian heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industries. HRAI represents over 1,350 corporate members doing business across Canada and offers numerous services to industry, including: government relations and advocacy, HVAC design and installation training, industry statistics programs, industry communications (magazine, electronic news, webinars), a bi-annual trade show (CMPX), environmental compliance programs (Refrigerant Management Canada, Thermostat Recovery Program), utility rebate programs (with IESO), and more. HRAI also provides assistance to Canadians seeking qualified HVACR contractors through its online contractor locator and call center.

[www.hrai.ca](http://www.hrai.ca)