

STRATURE

GEOPOLITICAL PROSPECTS & STRATEGY

Strature Briefs · Decision Brief · No. 026 · Edition 1.0 (archive) · 30 Sep 2026

DECISION BRIEF · CANADA LARGE-LOAD GRID CONNECTION · EXECUTIVE READ · ARCHIVE EDITION

What can a large electricity load get connected in Canada, where, and by when?

No province makes a queue position a right to power.

Alberta allocating **1,200–2,400 MW** more by end-**2028** carries **50%**, *our estimate, scored when it resolves.*

ALBERTA ADDS 1,200–2,400 MW · 50% · OUR ESTIMATE, SCORED WHEN IT RESOLVES

50%

30%

20%

1,200–2,400 MW more

Over 2,400 MW more

Nothing further

Signed for and on behalf of the corporation: **Milad Naeimi · Principal** · Strature Geopolitical Prospects & Strategy Inc., Toronto · Edition 1.0 (archive) · 30 September 2026 · Evidence to 30 September 2026 · Facts refreshed 30 September 2026 · Free preview for general circulation; the full brief is supplied under Strature's terms.

Archive edition. Researched 6 September 2026; harmonised to the current house standard 30 September 2026.

6% at most of Alberta's listed megawatts reached a load contract (AESO)	750 MW largest Ontario request; the largest site running is about 50 MW (IESO)	400 of ~800 MW BC's AI and data-centre allocation against the load requested
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THE ANSWER

No province makes a queue position a right to power. Alberta's only completed round turned at most 6 per cent of the megawatts on the operator's list into executed load contracts. British Columbia keeps queue positions but makes the duty to serve conditional on selection. Ontario's operator applies a likelihood factor to its own connection requests before planning for them (IESO, Jul 2025).

Half the registered weight, 50%, our estimate, scored when it resolves, sits where Alberta allocates 1,200–2,400 MW more by 31 December 2028.

FINDINGS

Alberta rewarded readiness, not seniority.

Over 20,000 MW on the AESO list; 4,800 MW qualified; 1,200 MW reached executed contracts. The tests were municipal support, financial security and power flow studies.

AESO, Sep 2025; re-read 30 Sep 2026.

British Columbia keeps the place, releases the duty.

400 MW is open to AI and data centres against close to 800 MW requested by 15 applicants. The result, due end-September, now follows the government transition.

Province of BC; BC Hydro, read 30 Sep 2026.

Ontario discounts its own queue.

The largest request the IESO reports is 750 MW; the largest site running draws about 50 MW. On 13 Aug 2026 Ontario proposed a government approval gate for new data centres.

IESO, Jul 2025; ERO 026-0853.

In the model, own generation leads the queue.

Alberta own generation scores 3.5 months of worst expected regret; an Alberta queue position 6.4. Declared timing assumptions drive both.

Strature model, 6 Sep 2026.

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Not investment advice. See notice, p. 4.

1 / 4

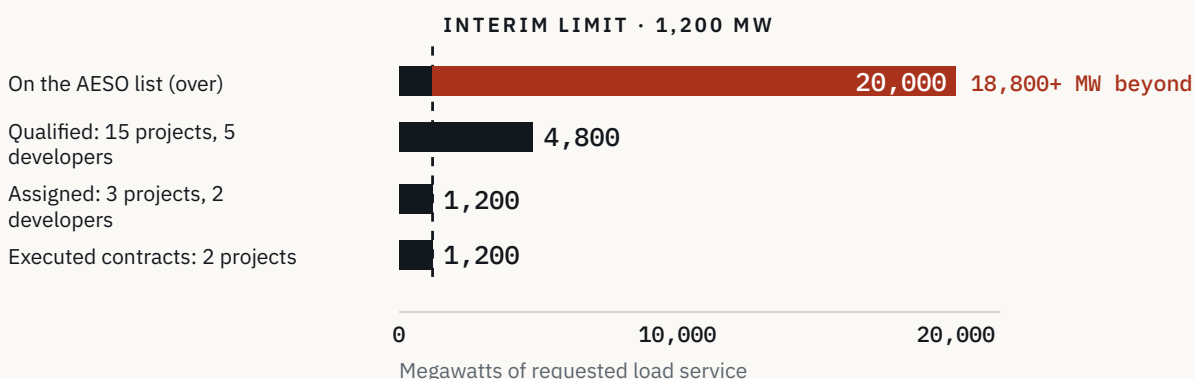
Alberta's funnel: the one completed round, re-read 30 September 2026

Canada's only completed allocation round turned over 20,000 MW of listed load into 1,200 MW of executed contracts. Since 6 September, all three provinces' rules have moved; see Since publication in the full brief.

EXHIBIT X1 · FORM: BARS AGAINST A DATUM · EVIDENCE GRADE A

At most six per cent of Alberta's listed megawatts reached a contract

Megawatts of data-centre load at each published stage of AESO Large Load Integration Phase I · AESO, Sep 2025 and Large Load Projects page · re-read 30 Sep 2026



THE READING

The list stands at over 20,000 MW; 4,800 MW qualified and 1,200 MW, the interim limit, ended in executed load contracts for two projects. Because the list total is a lower bound, every share of it is a ceiling.

DENOMINATOR

The AESO's own list total, which it states as 'over 20,000 MW'; shares taken from it are upper bounds.

SOURCES

AESO Update on Data Centres, Sep 2025 (posted 26 Sep 2025); AESO Large Load Projects page; AESO interim approach, 4 Jun 2025. Read 6 Sep 2026, re-read 30 Sep 2026.

EVIDENCE GRADE

A · a named public series from its publisher

HOW TO READ THIS PLATE

Each bar is one stage of one allocation round, on one scale. The dashed line is the 1,200 MW interim limit. THE ACCENT: the distance between the list and the interim limit, the listed megawatts beyond the 1,200 MW the round allocated.

X1 · ALBERTA

EXHIBIT X1 · ALBERTA

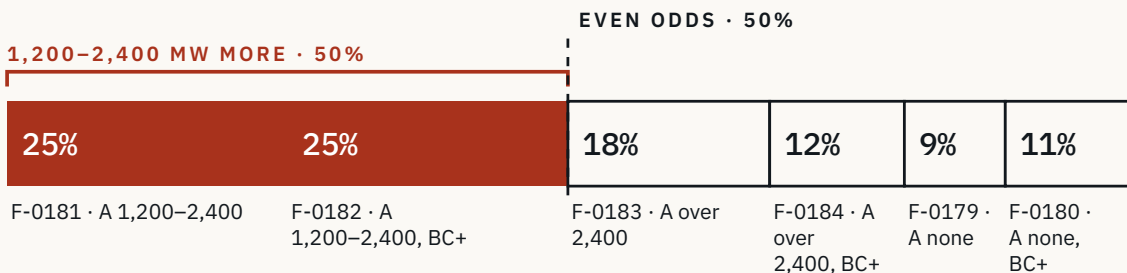
What would change it

Six futures to 31 December 2028, each our estimate, scored when it resolves: Alberta allocates nothing further (20%), 1,200–2,400 MW more (50%) or over 2,400 MW more (30%), with or without a repeated BC call. As registered, the three Alberta bands leave 1–1,199 MW of further allocation uncovered; by the owner's ruling of 30 September 2026, such an outcome resolves every Alberta band NO and is scored as registered (Section 17).

EXHIBIT X4 · FORM: PROPORTIONAL STRIP · EVIDENCE GRADE B

Half the registered weight sits where Alberta allocates 1,200–2,400 MW more

Six futures to 31 December 2028 · each our estimate, scored when it resolves · registered 6 Sep 2026, printed as registered



THE READING

The two futures of 1,200–2,400 MW more carry 50%; the two of nothing further, 20%.

DENOMINATOR

Six futures on two axes; the registered weights sum to 100%, but the Alberta bands leave 1–1,199 MW uncovered (Section 17).

SOURCES

Strature forecasts F-0179 to F-0184, registered 6 Sep 2026 in Edition 1.0. The weights are ours, not a publisher's.

EVIDENCE GRADE

B · published work, or a primary text counted by us

HOW TO READ THIS PLATE

Width is the registered weight; the dashed line is even odds. A: Alberta's further allocation; BC+: BC repeats its call. THE ACCENT: modest Alberta allocation, 50%.

X4 · CANADA

EXHIBIT X4 · CANADA



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THE NEXT SIGNPOSTS

Later in 2026 (no fixed date)

BC Hydro notifies applicants, after the government transition

Fall 2026 (AESO's word)

AESO posts its own-generation process and opens intake

Monthly

AESO project list (last updated 1 Sep 2026)

Not scheduled

Ontario decides on its proposed connection regulation

Options to consider

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'No-regret' and 'bet' are our analytical labels for how an option fares across the futures, not recommendations.

NO-REGRET OPTIONS: THEY HOLD IN EVERY FUTURE

- 1 Pricing a queue position as a place in line.** Developers holding a place in a Canadian queue could consider pricing it as a place in line to be considered, not as an entitlement to power: Alberta turned at most 6 per cent of listed megawatts into contracts, and BC states the duty to serve is conditional. Signpost: BC Hydro notifies applicants.
- 2 Readiness over seniority.** Developers further back in a line might weigh the three things Alberta's round tested, municipal support, financial security and a completed power flow study, since none of them depends on time in the queue. Signpost: the AESO posts its own-generation process.
- 3 Testing the model's outside-Canada timeline.** Siting teams comparing a site outside Canada could consider testing the model's 33-month assumption against their own pipeline: in the model, a route slower than 36 months puts Alberta own generation first. Signpost: a siting team's own timeline.

Three further options, labelled bets, are set out in the full brief.

WHAT THIS BRIEF CANNOT ESTABLISH

Megawatts actually energised, by province and date, on one definition: no operator publishes them. The IESO's tier split, published only as graphs. A national figure for operating data-centre load, which no Canadian system operator or Statistics Canada publishes.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CORPORATION

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Every probability is our estimate, scored when it resolves.

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