

DECISION BRIEF • CANADA LARGE-LOAD GRID CONNECTION • ONE-PAGE SHEET • 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**



## 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

### THE CALL

**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 its list into executed load contracts, and it rewarded readiness, not seniority. British Columbia keeps existing queue positions but states that BC Hydro is not obliged to serve projects its competitive process does not select. Ontario's operator applies a likelihood factor to its own connection requests before planning for them (IESO, Jul 2025), and its government has proposed an approval gate for new data centres.

Half the registered weight, 50%, our estimate, scored when it resolves, sits in the futures where Alberta allocates 1,200–2,400 MW more by 31 December 2028. The registered Alberta bands leave 1–1,199 MW uncovered; under a scoring rule set on 30 September 2026, that outcome resolves every Alberta band NO (full brief, Section 17).

### 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. Three no-regret options hold in every future; three bets are in the full brief.

### TAKEAWAYS

1. In none of the three provinces does a queue position carry a right to power.
2. Alberta's only completed round rewarded readiness, not time in the queue.
3. All three provinces' rules moved between June and September 2026.

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