

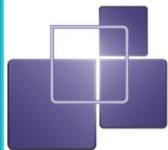
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- **The role of governments in addressing climate change: Lessons from the ACW project**

Hadrian Mertins-Kirkwood,
Senior Researcher, CCPA

ACW Meeting, York University

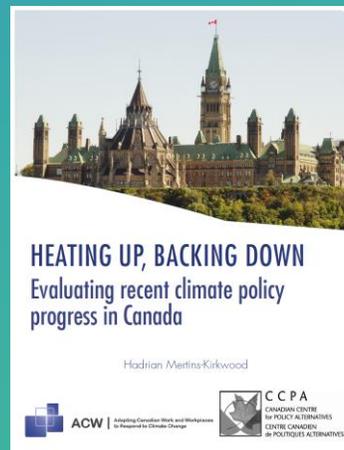
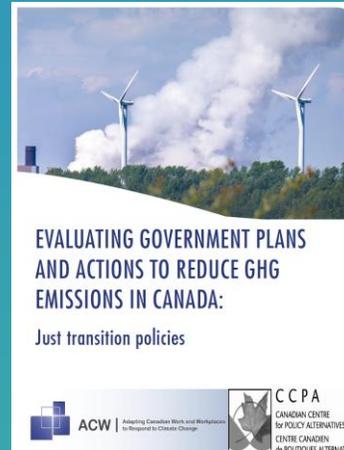
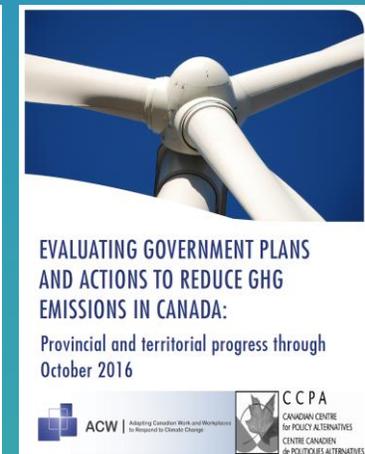
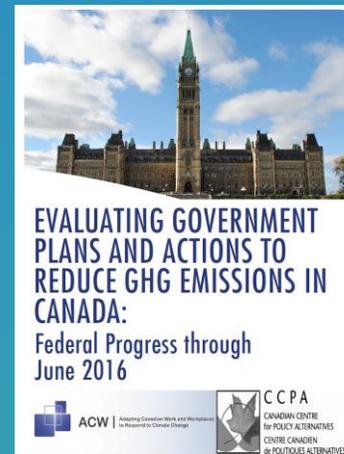
April 30, 2022



ACW | Adapting Canadian Work and Workplaces
to Respond to Climate Change

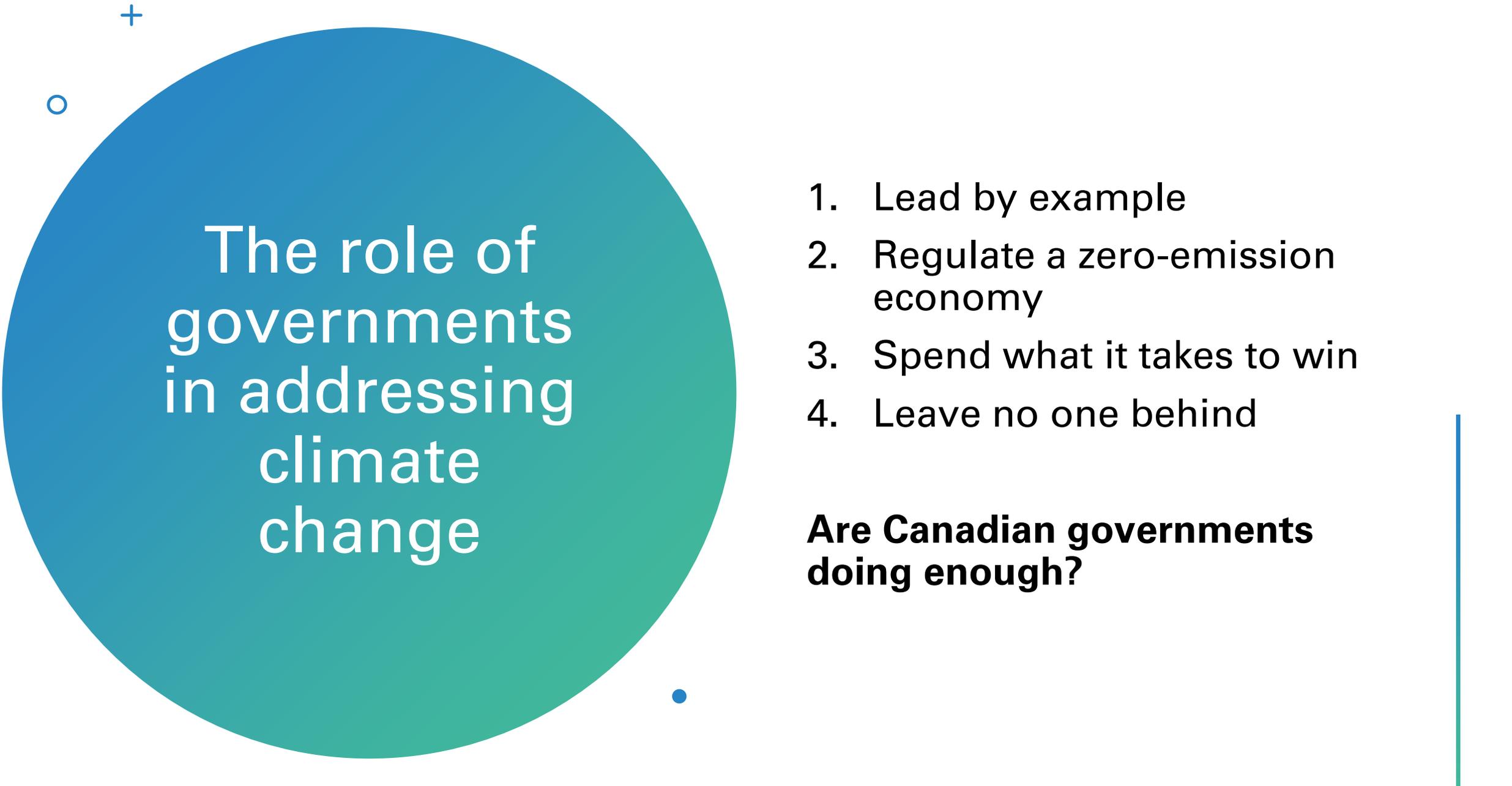


Thank you ACW



2015

2021



The role of governments in addressing climate change

1. Lead by example
2. Regulate a zero-emission economy
3. Spend what it takes to win
4. Leave no one behind

Are Canadian governments doing enough?



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#1

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Lead by example

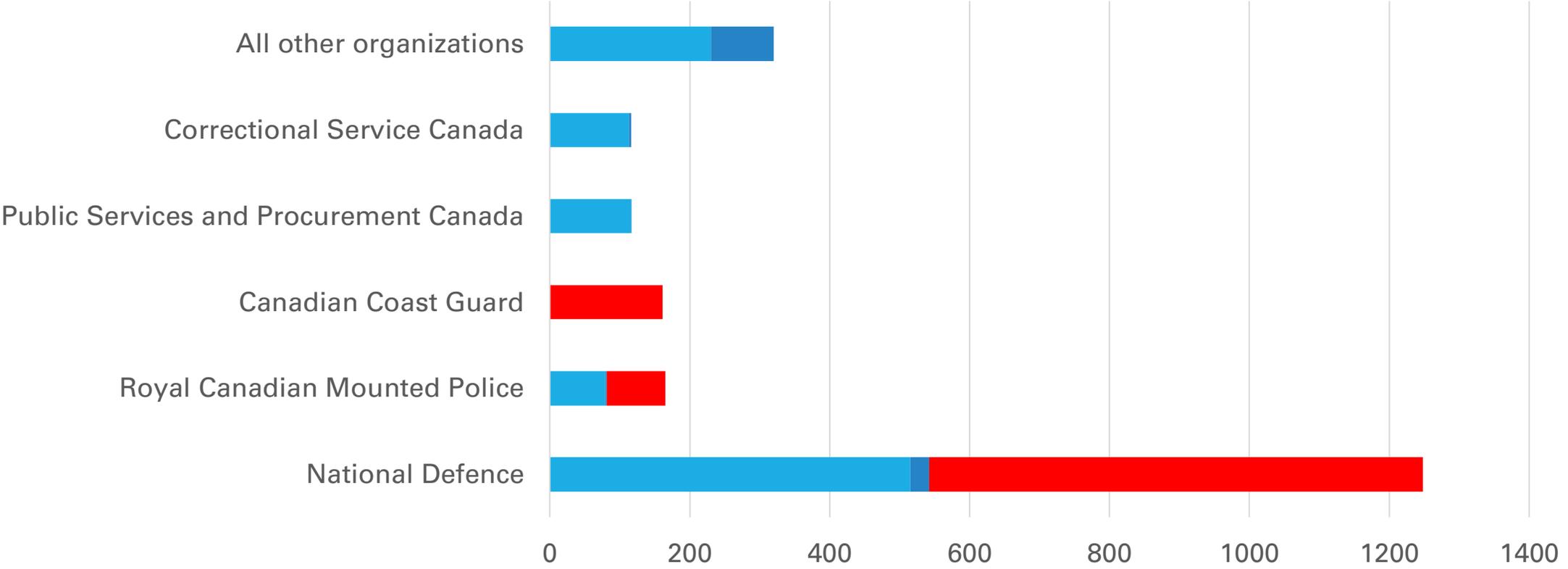
- Federal government is one of the largest owners of property and vehicles in the country
- Federal government accounts for 0.3% of total Canadian emissions → greatest impact is showing other sectors how emissions reductions can be achieved
- Greening Government Strategy sets out the plan to achieve net-zero government emissions

Federal emissions by organization

(ktCO₂e)



Facilities Fleets & travel Security operations





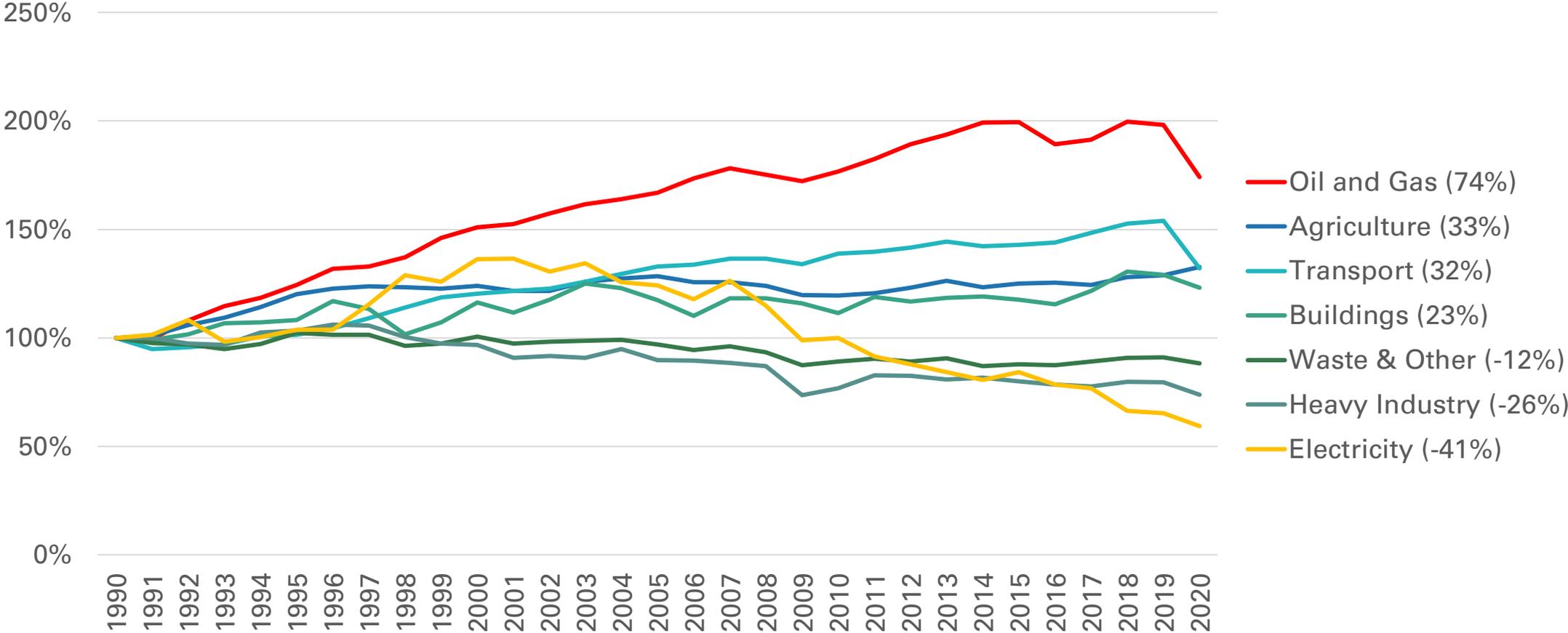
#2

**REGULATE A
ZERO-EMISSION
ECONOMY**

Regulate a zero-emission economy

- Governments have the power to shape markets to advance long-term priorities in the public interest
- Regulatory phase-out of coal-fired electricity generation is the greatest climate success story in Canadian history
- Carbon pricing, clean fuel standards, building efficiency, ZEV incentives, etc. target **domestic demand** for fossil fuels, but ignore **global supply** of fossil fuels

Change in greenhouse gas emissions by economic sector since 1990



Tackling the climate crisis requires governments to think globally, long-term

Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault calls this week's world climate report 'sobering'

By The Canadian Press | News, Politics | April 5th 2022



Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault listens to his introduction before delivering a speech on an emissions reduction plan, at the Canadian Club in Toronto on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. File photo by The Canadian Press/Chris Young

Ottawa approves Bay du Nord oil development off coast of Newfoundland and Labrador

EMMA GRANNEY > ENERGY REPORTER

MARIEKE WALSH >

EDMONTON, CANADA

PUBLISHED APRIL 6, 2022





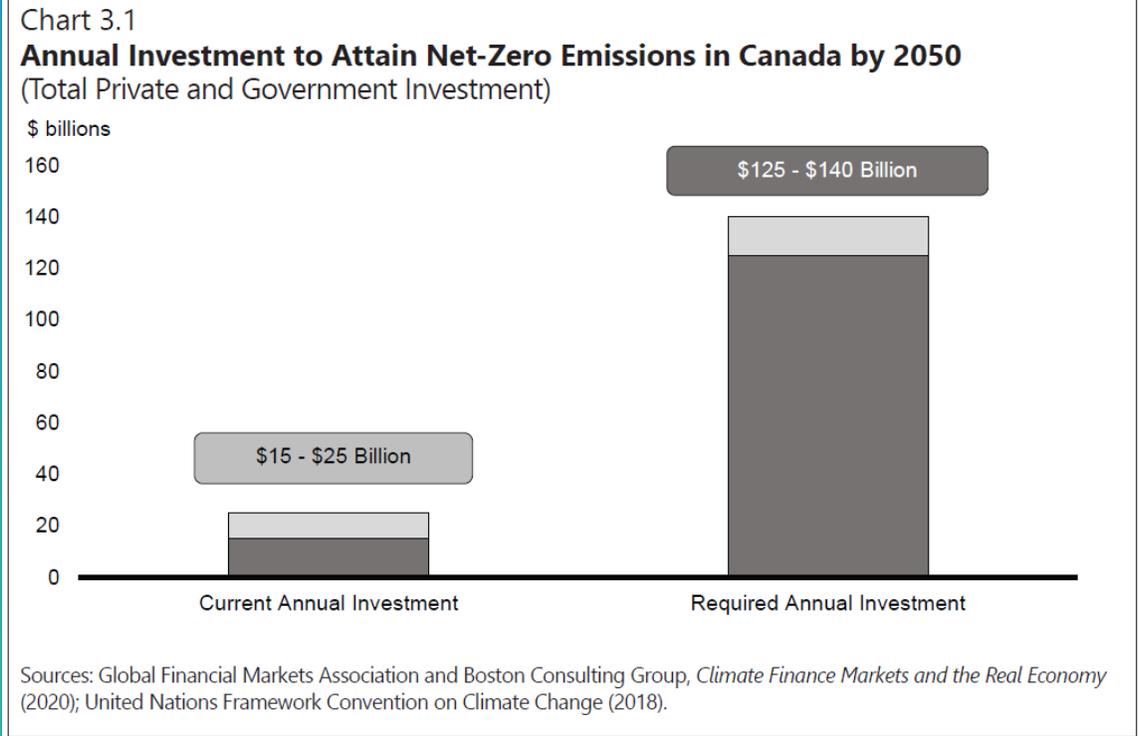
#3

**SPEND WHAT IT
TAKES TO WIN**



“On the fight against climate change alone—to build a net-zero economy by 2050—Canada will need between \$125 billion and \$140 billion of investment every year over that period. Today, annual investment in the climate transition is between \$15 billion and \$25 billion.”

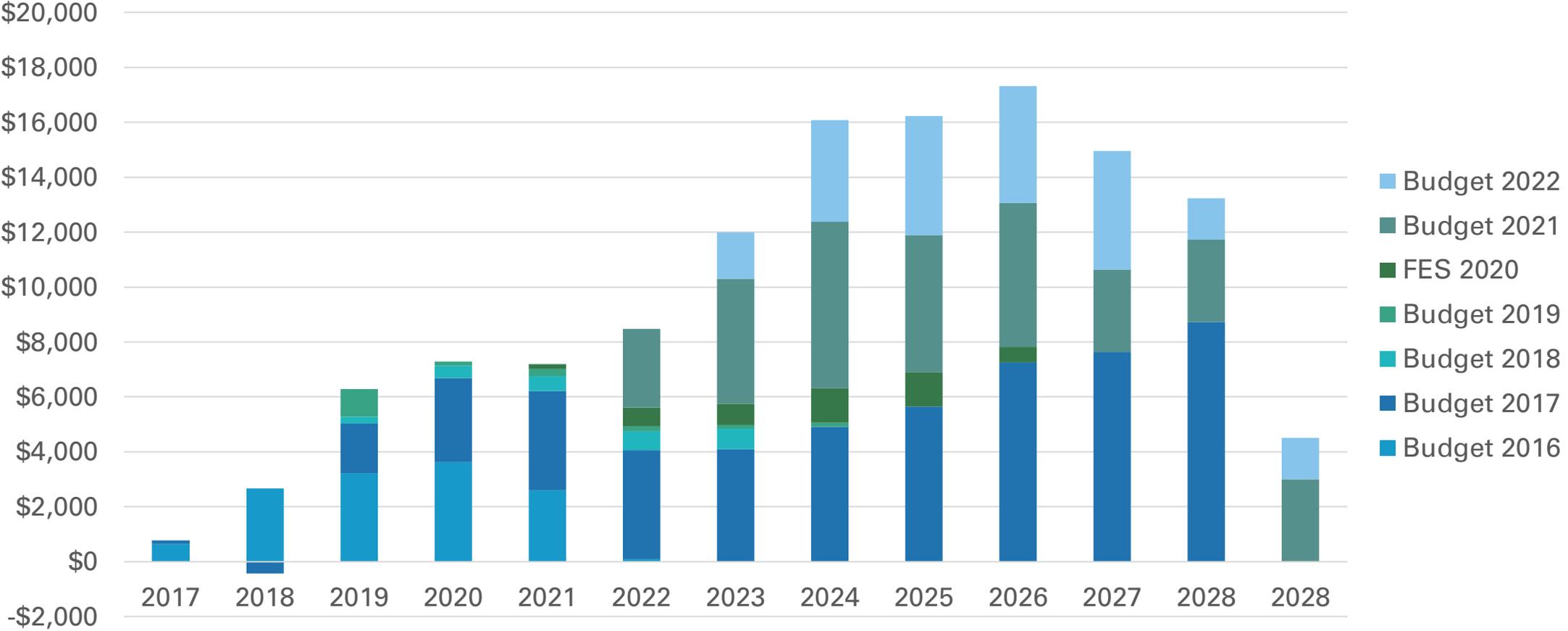
Budget 2022



Spend what it takes to win

- Regulation alone cannot transition the energy system
- \$100 billion/year is 3.5% of GDP
 - Private capital has a role to play, but the market alone has proven unable or unwilling to invest on the necessary scale
- Governments have enormous fiscal capacity
 - \$100 billion/year is 23% of federal program spending
- Leading governments around the world are pursuing aggressive green industrial policies

Federal climate-related spending by year and by year of announcement (millions) *preliminary





#4

LEAVE NO
ONE BEHIND

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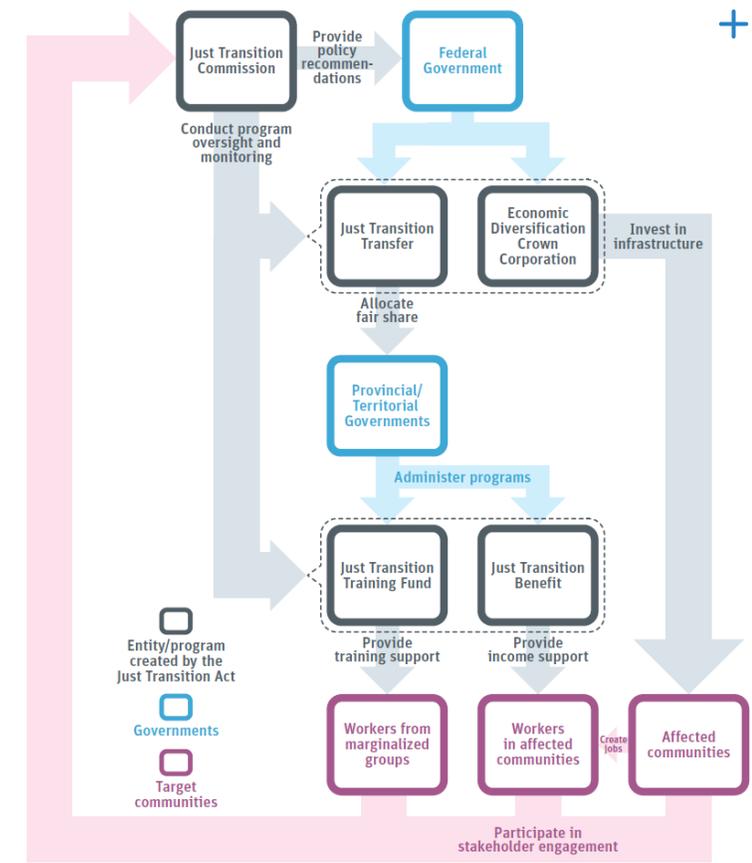
Leave no one behind

- Risks of phasing out fossil fuels
 - Hundreds of thousands of workers and dozens of regional economies depend on fossil fuel production
- Risks of transitioning into a clean economy
 - Historically marginalized groups are not working in the occupations and industries poised for growth
- Federal government has promised a Just Transition Act
 - OAG found the government has failed to advance a just transition since making it a priority in 2015

What would a comprehensive Just Transition Act look like?

- Enshrine fundamental just transition principles, rights and definitions
- Establish a Just Transition Commission
- Establish a Just Transition Benefit
- Establish an Economic Diversification Crown Corporation
- Establish a Just Transition Training Fund
- Establish a new federal–provincial/territorial Just Transition Transfer

FIGURE 1 Overview of program delivery under proposed framework for a Canadian Just Transition Act





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Are
governments
doing enough
to address
climate
change?

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1. Leading by example?
2. Regulating a zero-emission economy?
3. Spending what it takes to win?
4. Leaving no one behind?

Canadian governments are doing a lot but still have a long way to go.
