

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building a Stronger Future: Report Urges Strategic Industrial Focus to Strengthen Canada's Competitiveness

OTTAWA, June 5, 2025 – To build an industrial strategy that will make Canada more globally competitive while fighting climate change—a priority reaffirmed in the most recent federal Throne Speech - Canada must focus strategic support on a clutch of key potential growth sectors. That's the urgent message from the latest report released today by the [Commission on Carbon Competitiveness](#) and [The Transition Accelerator](#), which calls for a bold, coordinated industrial strategy to position Canada as a global leader in clean innovation.

With China and the EU rapidly accelerating green investments and the U.S. pulling back from climate leadership, Canada faces a critical window to act or risk falling permanently behind.

The report surveys success stories from Canada (oil sands, canola and satellites) and abroad to glean common elements of success and applies them to the Canadian context. It highlights that successful industrial policy depends on a clear and coordinated approach. This includes setting specific technology focus areas and targets, establishing mechanisms for public-private coordination, and the use of a full range of policy tools that goes beyond just R&D tax credits.

These elements can be distilled into three key best practices: setting clear targets, fostering coordination, and deploying a broad policy mix to ensure impact and alignment across sectors.

Key Findings from the Report

Industrial policy can work

Canada's economic future depends on strategic and coordinated support from governments, in concert with the private sector. Like past national successes in oil sands, canola, and satellite technology, strategic investment and policy coordination can drive prosperity—but only if Canada moves quickly.

Strategic, Coordinated Industrial Policy is Essential

To succeed in clean technology, Canada must go beyond fragmented funding and short-term pilot programs. Industrial policy does not have to be expensive, as it is less about spending than it is about public-private coordination to support innovators with whole-of-government policy mixes. Success stories like China's EV sector and Taiwan's semiconductors weren't accidents—they were the result of deliberate, long-term industrial strategy.

"Invented Here, Scaled Elsewhere" Must End

Canada has led the world in clean tech invention, from lithium-ion breakthroughs in Quebec to carbon capture innovations, but repeatedly fails to scale them. Without building full value chains here at home, the country exports its potential along with its intellectual property.

Canada Needs a Central Industrial Strategy Authority

The Commission calls for a central body to coordinate industrial policy, cut red tape, and align public and private investments in key sectors.

Compete or Get Left Behind

As countries race to dominate the low-carbon economy, Canada must act with urgency and precision. Relying on scattered tax credits and isolated R&D won't cut it. The time for action is now.

Key Commission Recommendations for Governments

Establish a Central Industrial Strategy Authority: Create a central entity within the Privy Council Office to coordinate and lead Canada's industrial policy efforts across government.

Form an Independent Advisory Council: to provide expert advice enabling government to select and evaluate 5–7 strategic technology or sector priorities based on market potential, resource endowment, and innovation capacity.

Launch Sector-Specific Coordination Bodies: Designate new or existing arms-length organizations to develop roadmaps and align policy tools in each priority area through deep collaboration with industry.

Improve Whole-of-Government Policy Alignment: Deploy a broad policy mix and strengthen cross-departmental coordination of industrial policy instruments—such as R&D funding, procurement, infrastructure, skills, and export support.

The Commission's latest paper provides a roadmap for building globally competitive clean industries and makes the case that industrial decarbonization is Canada's best path to long-term economic strength.

Read the full report at: [Insert URL]

Webinar to discuss recommendations

The Commission will host a webinar on June 19 to further explore the recommendations in this report. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

Quotes

Aaron Cosbey, Chair of the Commission on Carbon Competitiveness and Senior Associate with the International Institute for Sustainable Development:

"Canada has a choice to make. We can lead the next wave of clean industrial growth, or we can continue to invent technologies here that are scaled—and profited from—elsewhere. The main question here is "Will Canada continue inventing breakthrough technologies only to watch them scale abroad?"

Travis Southin, Future Economy Lead, The Transition Accelerator and report author:

"We've seen what happens when Canada invents world-class technologies but fails to scale them. Without a coordinated approach to industrial strategy, we'll keep missing out. This report lays out the roadmap, we now need the political will to follow it."

Michael Bernstein, Vice-Chair of the Commission on Carbon Competitiveness and Executive Director of Clean Prosperity:

"Canada has the research capacity, the entrepreneurial talent, and the ambition, but we lack the coordination to turn innovation into global leadership. This report provides a practical blueprint for how targeted industrial strategy can align public and private efforts to deliver real economic gains."

Sean Speer, Member of Commission Advisory Council and Senior Fellow, Public Policy Forum

"Canada has what it takes to lead in clean industrial innovation, but we need coordination, long-term strategy, and follow-through. This report is a call to action for decision-makers across sectors to stop working in silos and start building together."

About the Commission on Carbon Competitiveness

The Commission on Carbon Competitiveness is a group of leading Canadian and U.S. experts in economics, climate policy, technology, and trade law. The Commission was established in March 2023 with the goal of helping Canadian industry remain globally competitive as the world decarbonizes, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, attract new investment, and develop long-term competitive advantages in emerging low-carbon industries. The Commission is supported by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Clean Prosperity, and the Canadian Climate Institute, and funded by the Trottier Family Foundation, with additional support from the Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation.

Learn more at: carboncompetitiveness.ca.

Contact the Commission at: info@carboncompetitiveness.ca

About The Transition Accelerator

The Transition Accelerator is putting Canada on a path to a strong competitive economy in a world driving to reduce emissions to carbon neutrality. We work with 300+ partner organizations to build out pathways to a prosperous low-carbon economy and avoid costly dead-ends along the way. By connecting systems-level thinking with real-world analysis, we're enabling a more affordable, competitive, and resilient future for all Canadians.

