Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada
Lobby Climatique des Citoyens

Empowering people to create the political will for a liveable world since 2010

Climate Policy in Canada: Conversation Starter Questionnaire

Foundational Knowledge

1. Name a greenhouse gas.
2. What is the number one source of greenhouse gas pollution in Canada?
3. What percentage of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from fossil fuels?

Federal vs. Provincial Roles

4. Provinces and territories control their natural resources and energy files, not the federal government. (True/False)

Key Policies & Legal Context

6. The *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* was deemed constitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada. (True/False)
7. Name a federal climate policy in Canada.
8. **What is the most powerful climate policy at the federal level?**
9. The *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* legally requires the federal government to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. (True/False)
10. The federal government is currently in violation of the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*. (True/False)

Financial & Regulatory Alignment

11. Are banks in Canada regulated to align with the Paris Agreement goals? (True/False)

Disinformation & Public Perception

12. Fossil fuel companies and their political allies spent millions on Meta ads spreading disinformation about the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. (True/False)

Impacts & Solutions

13. The cancellation of the Consumer Carbon Price and Rebate led to increased greenhouse gas emissions and income inequality. (True/False)
14. Planting trees alone can significantly help Canada meet its climate targets. (True/False)
15. Building more nuclear energy will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this decade (True/False)
16. The greenhouse gas emissions from building new pipelines will be offset by carbon capture and sequestration. (True/False)

Critical Thinking & Local Context

17. Why is Ontario being sued by *Mathur et al.*?
18. Why is the federal government being sued by CAPE, Environmental Defence, and three youths?
19. Name some climate policies that have been canceled in your province.
20. Name a local climate policy at the municipal level in your area.

Canada's Global Commitments

21. Canada is on track to meet its 2030 emissions reduction target under the Paris Agreement. (True/False)

Global Leadership

22. Did Canada participate meaningfully in the First Conference to Transition off Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta, Colombia, in April 2026? (True/False)

Answer Key

Foundational Knowledge

1. **Suggested answers:** Carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), fluorinated gases.
2. **Answer:** The **oil and gas sector** (including extraction, refining, and combustion).
3. **Answer: ~80%** (as of recent data, fossil fuel combustion accounts for the vast majority of emissions).

Federal vs. Provincial Roles

4. **Answer: True**.Under Canadian federal law, yes, the provinces generally control their natural resources and energy files. This authority is rooted in the Constitution Act, 1867, which grants provinces ownership and jurisdiction over their natural resources, including forests, minerals, and energy sources like oil and gas. The federal government has jurisdiction over national climate policies, interprovincial/international trade, and environmental protection. However, this makes writing laws that impact natural resources and energy production so difficult for the federal government.

Key Policies & Legal Context

6. **Answer: True**. In *Reference re Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (2021), the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in favor of its constitutionality.
7. **Suggested answers:** *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (carbon pricing), *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*, *Clean Fuel Regulations*, *2030 Emissions Reduction Plan*.
8. **Answer: The *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*** (even with the cancellation of the consumer carbon rebate program, the industrial carbon price is quite powerful), as it directly incentivizes emissions reductions across sectors and is legally binding.
9. **Answer: True**. The Act mandates net-zero by 2050 and requires 5-year milestones and progress reports.
10. **Answer: False** (as of July 2026). While Canada is **not on track** to meet its 2030 or 2050 targets, the Act does not impose legal penalties for missing targets.

Financial & Regulatory Alignment

11. **Answer: False**. While OSFI requires climate risk disclosures, there are **no binding regulations** forcing banks to align financing with Paris goals.

Disinformation & Public Perception

12. **Answer: True**. Investigations found that industry groups spent **over $4 million** on Meta ads opposing carbon pricing, often with misleading claims.

Impacts & Solutions

13. **Answer: True**. The cancellation of the carbon rebate program and replacement with the 1% reduction in personal income taxes resulted in a lot more GHGs, and more inequality (and 5.5 billion dollars more in our deficit. *Shiell and Dahir*).
14. **Answer: False**. While afforestation helps, it **cannot offset** Canada's high emissions from oil/gas, transportation, and industry.
15. **Answer: False**. Nuclear provides **~15% of Canada's electricity** and is low-carbon, but its growth potential is constrained by high costs, long timelines and deep concerns about the safety of the disposal of the nuclear waste proposed in Canada.
16. **Answer: False**. Carbon capture (CCUS) is **not yet scalable** enough to offset emissions from new pipelines.

Critical Thinking & Local Context

17. **Answer:** The lawsuit (*Mathur v. Ontario*) argues that Ontario's **weakened climate policies** violate the **right to life, liberty, and security** under *Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
18. **Answer:** The federal lawsuit, filed by Ecojustice is hinged on the federal government's failure to uphold the Canadian Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act.
19. **Ontario examples:** Cap-and-trade program (2018), Green Energy Act (2018), Electric vehicle incentives (reduced), Renewable energy contracts (canceled or scaled back).
20. **Examples:** *TransformTO Net Zero Strategy* (Toronto), *Climate Emergency Action Plan* (Vancouver, Sudbury, Ottawa), *2020–2030 Climate Plan* (Montreal), *HalifACT* (Halifax).

Canada's Global Commitments

21. **Answer: False**. Canada's **2023 emissions projections** show it will **miss its 2030 target** (40–45% below 2005 levels) without additional action. (We are probably not even halfway there).

Global Leadership

22. **Answer: No.** Canada **did not send high-level representatives** to the conference and **did not endorse the final declaration** calling for a fossil fuel phase-out.

Journey 1

Define the persona and their goals

Map the persona’s journey with your product. The journey can be visual (flowchart, storyboard) or a narrative.

- Example: As a busy parent, I want to quickly reorder household items from my phone to save time and never run out of essentials
- Define the user (new customer, returning customer, power user)
- Select the task the user wants to accomplish (purchase, sign up, use feature)
- Detail each step from initial contact to final outcome

Journey 2

Define the persona and their goals

Map the persona’s journey with your product. The journey can be visual (flowchart, storyboard) or a narrative.

- Example: As a busy parent, I want to quickly reorder household items from my phone to save time and never run out of essentials
- Define the user (new customer, returning customer, power user)
- Select the task the user wants to accomplish (purchase, sign up, use feature)
- Detail each step from initial contact to final outcome

Competitor A

- Brief overview of the company and product or feature
- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Market position

Competitor B

- Brief overview of the company and product or feature
- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Market position

Competitor C

- Brief overview of the company and product or feature
- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Market position

Competitive analysis

Feature
Feature 1
Feature 2
Feature 3

Pricing model

Feature
Free tier
Basic tier
Pro tier
Enterprise tier

Differentiators

Explicitly highlight what sets your product or feature apart to gain a competitive advantage

Functional requirements

Indicate importance levels (Example: P0 = Must-have, P1 = Should-have, and P2 = Nice-to-have) and outline what the product or feature must do

Priority
P0
P1
P2

Non-functional requirements

Performance

Add the speed, responsiveness, and any other performance-related statistics

Security

List any authentication, data protection, and any other security-related features

Usability

Describe the ease of use, accessibility, and any other usability-related features

Compatibility

List the browsers, operating systems, devices, and any other notes on compatibility

Dependencies

Internal

Describe other teams, systems, or components this project relies on

External

State third-party integrations and specific technologies required

Assumptions

List the key assumptions that might change the business equation

Risks and mitigations

Risks

Describe potential obstacles or challenges and mitigation plans

Timeline and milestones

Milestone	Details
M1	Add key feature deliverables
M2	Add key feature deliverables
M3	Add key feature deliverables
M4	Add key feature deliverables
M5	Add key feature deliverables

Open questions

Questions
Add question
Add question
Add question

Additional resources

File
File
File