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# Where next for Canada's low carbon transition?

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# Outline

- The Canadian context
  - Difficulties with the current debate
  - Some challenges for the coming period
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# The Canadian context

## Structural features

- Energy rich
  - Carbon intensive development trajectory
  - Differentiated regional energy political economies
  - Decentralized constitutional arrangements
  - Economically integrated with the United States
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## The Canadian context 2

### Political history

- Long history of engagement but difficulty introducing federal policies with teeth.
  - Contentious energy politics: pipeline politics; big hydro; wind; etc
  - Provincial initiatives: Ontario coal phase out, BC carbon tax; Quebec cap and trade
  - Pan Canadian framework: carbon price backstop and complementary policies
  - Headed into turbulent waters
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# Difficulties with the current debate

- Short term focus on finding mega tons of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Endless discussion of carbon pricing
  - The idea of a low-carbon transition has barely penetrated public consciousness
  - Discussion of emissions reductions isolated from that of meeting societal needs and development pathway
  - [Federal/provincial conflicts and ‘politicization’]
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# Some challenges for the coming period

- Institution building
  - Policy development
  - Why the personal transport sector matters
  - Public support and engagement (policy stickiness)
  - Low carbon development pathways
  - Regional decarbonization strategies
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# Regional decarbonization pathways

- Canada's regional energy political economies

Resources; provincial electricity sector; energy dependent industrial and economic activity; government strategies and programs; influence on political system and regional identity

- Defining regional pathways includes:

- Understanding the historical trajectory

- Understanding regional comparative advantages and disadvantages

- Understanding broader global market forces and trends

- Identifying firms and clusters with potential to propel decarbonisation

- Identifying key resources and promising technologies

- Building visions that draw on local traditions and potential

- Identifying complementarities with neighboring jurisdictions, and nationally

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