

# NEWS RELEASE

## Federal Net-Zero Emissions legislation fundamentally misunderstood and ineffectual; not legally binding and lacks details

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For immediate release

**CALGARY**—Ottawa’s new “net-zero” law, the Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act, doesn’t actually require emissions targets to be met, concludes a new analysis released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian public policy think-tank.

“There is a great deal of misunderstanding about what Ottawa’s signature emissions legislation does and doesn’t do,” said Andrew Roman, a retired litigation lawyer and author of *Is Canada’s Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act a Parliamentary Placebo?*

The legal analysis finds that Canada’s Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act does not require Canada to reach the federal government’s net-zero target (the amount of carbon dioxide we add to the atmosphere minus the amount we remove should equal zero) because:

- **Act is Not Legally Binding:** While the new law sets what the federal government refers to as “legally-binding targets,” the actual wording of the law does not bind anyone, including the federal government, to meet those targets, and there are no penalties for failing to do so.
- **No Costed Plan:** The legislation fails to provide a clear plan with measurable actions to achieve the goal of net zero emissions. Moreover, the absence of a plan means there are no cost estimates allowing Canadians to weigh the benefits and costs.
- **Not Necessary:** Both the previous federal government and the current government have set emissions targets without using legislation, showing that this Act is unnecessary.
- **Not Required for Transparency:** Canada’s reporting under the Paris Agreement already requires transparency, creating accountability.

“The federal government’s new legislation may be well-intended and make Canadians feel better, but the legislation itself lacks details, including a plan and cost estimates, calling into question the seriousness of the government’s approach,” Roman said.

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