

# The Role of Impact Assessment in a World in Crisis

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# Living in an age of crises: Climate





# A populist revolt...



Cnbc.com



Politico Europe

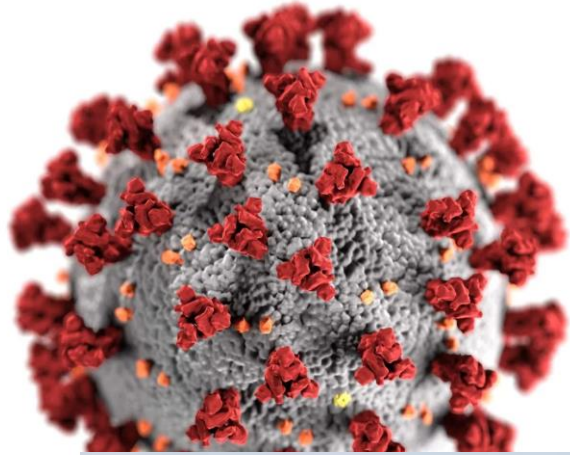
# Ontario edition....

“Cap-and-trade and carbon tax schemes are no more than government cash grabs that do nothing for the environment, while hitting people in the wallet in order to fund big government programs,”  
“The carbon tax is the single worst tax anyone – not just in Ontario – Canada could ever have.”





# New challenges



WHO

AP

# Governmental Responses

- Foresight and critical thinking out of fashion...
  - Ignore possible adverse trade-offs
  - Public, evidence, communities marginalized
  - Impact assessment as 'red tape'



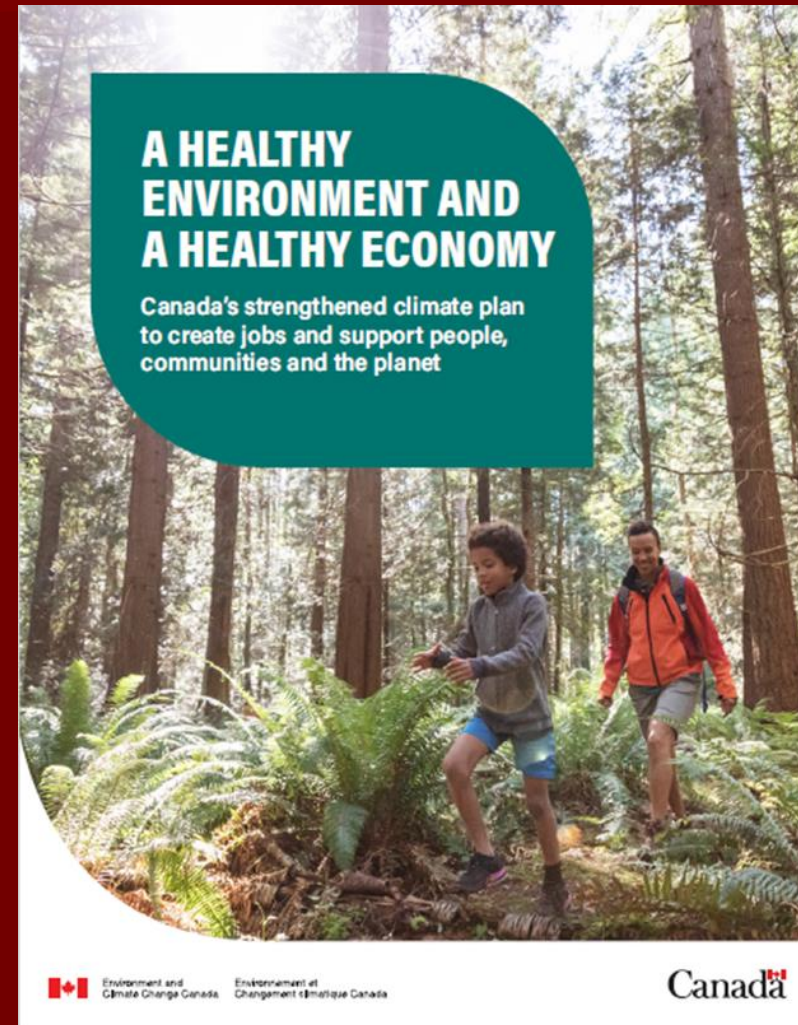
**Nine provinces  
join Alberta on  
'No More  
Pipelines' law'  
Bill C-69 appeal**

**WESTERN  
Standard**



# Re-establishing the case for assessment

- Governments making big long-term choices; key questions about impacts, trade-offs, risks, legacies, alternatives and technical and economic viability not being asked.

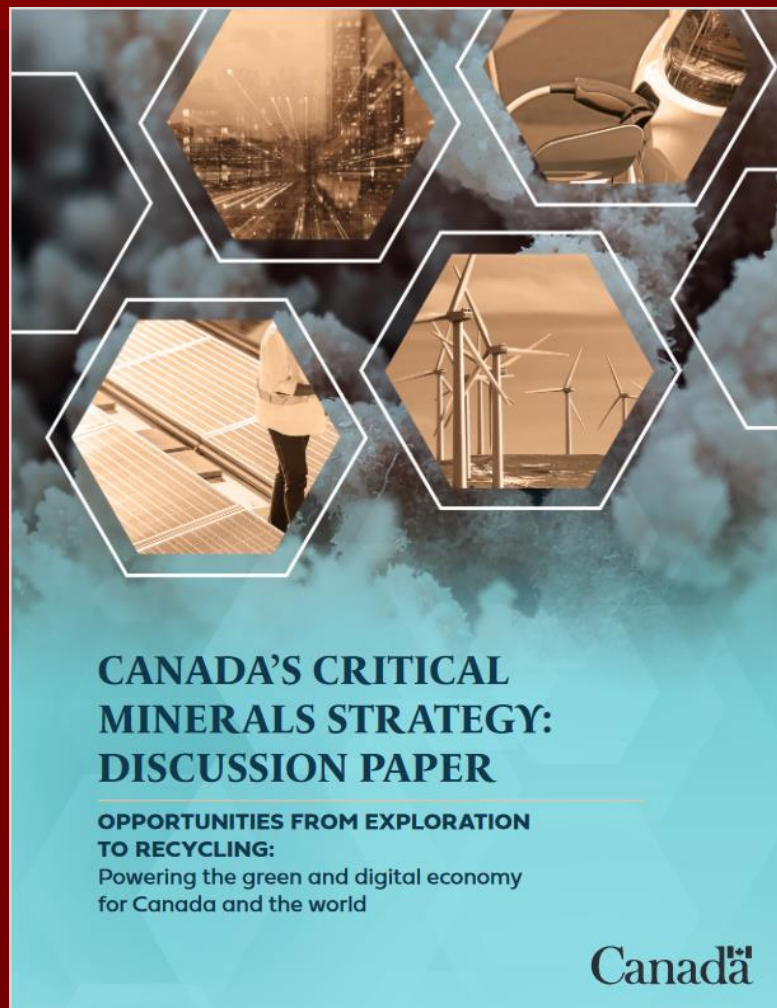


# Examples

## A Call to Action:

A Canadian Roadmap for Small Modular Reactors

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS





# The consequences of leaping before looking...





# Questions of Rationality; cost-effectiveness will arise...





# Role of Impact Assessment

- Formalized decision process
  - Transparency and public input
  - Reduces risk of 'policy-based evidence'
  - Attenuates 'withinput' of powerful incumbents

# Political and community acceptance





# Political case difficult

- Populist governments tend towards reactive governance models
  - Respond when things have obviously gone wrong rather than anticipate and avoid problems
- Downstream consequences of choices not immediately obvious
- Vision and foresight needed