
Date Submitted: May 25, 2019

Proceeding name: BCUC Inquiry into Gasoline and Diesel Prices in BC

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party: No

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Comment:

Here is an email i sent to Premier John Horgan exactly 1 year ago (in May 2018) with regards to this ongoing issue of price gauging in BC: Dear Premier Horgan, I saw a segment on CTV today where you talked about gas pricing in BC, and specifically the Greater Vancouver Area, and I'd like to point out an equally troubling phenomenon which seems unique to Greater Vancouver. While it's evident there are no government regulations when it comes to the pricing rules for our gas stations, the fact that prices are allowed to fluctuate between 5-10 cents per liter from one hour to the next can only be viewed as blatant gauging. From a consumers rights perspective I feel this particular practice should be illegal, so it's extremely promising to hear that you may actually look into gas pricing policies in defense of BC residents. I believe it's time for our voices to be heard and for someone to stand up for our rights. I can think of no other industry where pricing can change so randomly and drastically without some sort of regulatory law being broken. What I'm referring to is not simply the high gas prices we pay in the GVA compared to other parts of the country (or even other parts of the province), it's the position we find ourselves in by having to play the 'timing game'. Price conscience people such as myself are going through their work week, checking prices from morning until evening, waiting for the price to fall (which it always does but no one knows the hour), and hoping that when it does we're on the right side of the road and/or that we have the time to drive the extra few blocks to fill up. For example, we'll rush to the gas station these days when it's at \$1.54 because we all know it'll be \$1.61 the next morning. If we miss it, it's impossible to know at what hour it will go down again. It seems if we don't 'jump' when the gas stations dictate, we will miss the 'price of the hour' and pay dearly a few hours later. Here in the GVA we are treated differently than any other area in this country and no one ever seems to do anything about it. If we have to pay more for taxes, road improvements, transit etc. then so be it, but it is completely unfair for consumers to be treated like pawns with no protection from such extreme fluctuations. I would rather see gas priced firmly at \$1.65 every day for a week if I knew it was based on lawful taxes and pricing regulations than continue to see the blatant gouging that goes on day after day, year after year. This issue has been a hot button with many people in the GVA for a very long time. Everyone is unhappy about it yet no one seems to know what to do about it. As for myself, I am willing to write more letters, start a petition, and/or speak to whoever will listen.

As our BC leader (and the Premier I voted for ;) I'm sure you've observed the unfair practices I've described and I'm confident yours is the voice that can finally bring about change. I hope you will consider this letter and appreciate any attention you can bring to this all important matter. Most respectfully, Angela Francis

