
Date Submitted: June 01, 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:

I am a resident of Mission, which lies beyond the Metro Vancouver area, where gas prices SHOULD be approximately 17 cents lower than in areas where the transit tax is applied. I am retired, have a good pension, and recognize that in a free market economy, vendors are able to price their commodities as they please. Fluctuations in gas prices concern me, not because of the jumps, but because they happen so frequently, and with seeming randomness...up and down several cents within hours, with no apparent rationale for doing so. But what really concerns me is the apparent disregard for fair market practices regarding the taxation level. Specifically, the gas price in Mission earlier this week was 1.47.9 a litre, when the price in Vancouver was 1.49.9. That's a two cent difference, when it should've been 17. Now, I understand 'cherry picking', and if it were only ONE station where the displayed price was 1.49.9, I'd accept this was an anomaly, but that's not usually the case. I'm in Vancouver frequently, and travel through several municipalities to get there. I'll leave Mission at one price, and then see several different prices posted in the Metro area that do NOT reflect a 17 cent price differential, or anything near to it. Thus, my surmise is that Mission residents are being gouged, and THAT is inappropriate. Perhaps gas companies assume Valley residents are rather insular and 'don't get out much', but ours is a bedroom community, and residents travel into the Metro area for work, leisure, entertainment, etc., and we observe this disparity regularly. No doubt this can be confirmed easily by tracking company pricing moves which should be readily available. It's a point worth raising with corporate decision-makers: if they have ONE price displayed in the Metro area, and the price displayed beyond the boundary at Maple Ridge's eastern border is NOT roughly 17 cents lower, WHY are they maintaining it at such a high level?