



P.O. Box 1391  
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

June 5, 2019

John Horgan [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Premier Horgan:

The Sunshine Coast Labour Council has been monitoring the price of gasoline on the Coast since January 2019 when we first brought our concerns about overcharging to the public.

We believe it is important to point out that since our letter to the Editor, the local stations had been keeping the price of gas at around the 11 cents per litre below Vancouver prices that it should be. We were happy about this, until this week when the price began to drop in Vancouver but not in Gibsons. Today (June 5, 2019) we are still paying 155.9 cents per litre - 6 cents greater than in Vancouver. We know that when we are not diligent the price begins to increase because of the millions of dollars of profit at stake. We also know that this confirms they have been overcharging us whenever the difference is less than 11 cents.

The price of gasoline reached record highs and it is for this reason that the Sunshine Coast Labour Council passed a resolution asking that the BC Government regulate gas prices. The BC Utilities Commission already regulates electricity and natural gas so it only makes sense that if the Government really wants to help British Columbians feel "relief at the pumps" they will have to regulate the price of gasoline as well.

Companies in BC have been charging extremely high prices and they have been getting away with it. The Sunshine Coast Labour Council is asking the BC Government for regulation of gas prices through the BC Utilities Commission and to secure fair prices at the pumps.

Yours truly,

Ed Erickson, President,  
Sunshine Coast Labour Council

Attachment: Resolution on Regulating the Price of Gasoline May Day 2019

Letter to The Editor January 13, 2019

Letter to The Editor May 1, 2019



P.O. Box 1391  
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

January 13, 2019

Editor,

The Sunshine Coast Labour Council is taking issue with the continued over-pricing of gasoline and diesel on the Sunshine Coast.

While crude oil prices are at a long-term low, the price of gasoline has soared; it has come to the point where some residents are having to choose between gas and groceries. Residents of the Sunshine Coast are being charged an unwarranted additional amount. The Ministry of Finance Tax Bulletin MFT-CT 005 (2018) shows the taxes paid on gasoline in BC. Vancouver residents pay a total of 33.28 cents per litre in provincial tax, the Sunshine Coast 22.28. Diesel has 34.95 cents added in Vancouver area and 23.93 cents on the Sunshine Coast.

Transportation is often used to justify the higher price. Dangerous goods can be barged for just over 11 dollars per foot. A tanker can be from 40 feet long (11,000 litres) to close to 80 feet (36,000 litres) this comes out to \$442.80-\$886.85 (general quote) between 2.5 and 4 cents per litre.

The low volume of customers is not a factor; there are 8 gas stations on the Sunshine Coast and a population of over 29,000. Overall, in Canada, there are about 3 gas stations for every 10,000 people which puts us under the national average.

We are paying more for gasoline here because the companies can and have been getting away with it. It is time to act to lower our gasoline price. We need assurance that prices will be based on the actual cost of gasoline, taxes and transportation.

We are asking those who control the price on the Sunshine Coast for their explanation of their costs but at the same time, we want to let them know that we find their present pricing unjustified.

This is a matter of great public interest for workers and all residents of the Sunshine Coast. We ask residents to join with us and demand the end to the over-pricing which is based solely on being a captive market.

Ed Erickson, President  
The Sunshine Coast Labour Council



P.O. Box 1391  
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0

May 1, 2019

Dear Editor:

The Sunshine Coast Labour Council has been monitoring the price of gasoline on the Coast since January 2019 when we first brought our concerns to the public.

We believe it is important to point out that since our letter to the Editor, the local stations have been keeping the price of gas at around the 11 cents per litre below Vancouver prices that it should be. We are happy about this, but we know that if we are not diligent the price will certainly begin to increase again with millions of dollars at stake. We also know that this confirms they have been overcharging us whenever the difference was less than 11 cents. The price of gasoline has reached record highs and it is for this reason that Sunshine Coast Labour Council has passed a resolution asking that the BC Government regulate gas prices. The BC Utilities Commission already regulates electricity and natural gas so it only makes sense that if the Government really wants to help British Columbians feel “relief at the pumps” they will have to regulate the price of gasoline as well.

As it stands now, the oil companies are determining the rise in price at the pump. According to Marc Lee, a senior economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, “gouging by the suppliers, not taxes is the real cause of higher gas prices”. (Vancouver Sun April 29, 2019)

Marc Lee, in his report says that in April 2016 prices in Vancouver were \$1.15 per litre compared to over \$1.70 per litre today: a 55 cent per litre increase in 3 years. Of that price hike only 6.3 cents per litre is from tax increases. The remainder is mainly from the increase in mark up at the refinery by the oil companies. In BC this is almost double the amount as in the rest of Canada.

Companies have been charging higher prices and they have been getting away with it. On the Sunshine Coast we are going to be asking the Government for regulation of gas prices through the BC Utilities Commission and working to secure fair prices at the pumps, so they aren't, “getting away with it”, anymore.

Ed Erickson, President,  
Sunshine Coast Labour Council



May 1, 2019

**Resolution on Regulating the Price of Gasoline May Day 2019**

*Because the price of gasoline has soared to record highs*

*Because Oil companies are raising the prices to increase their profits*

*Because recent research by CCPA has shown that the real reason for the high price of gasoline, in BC, is the doubling of the refining margin (mark-up) charged by oil companies*

*Because this refining margin results in increase profits for the companies and gouging at the pumps*

*Because the research has proven that taxes are **not** the reason for the high price of gas*

*Because the Maritime provinces all have regulation of gas prices and proven the stability of regulation*

*Because the BC Utilities Commission is a body that regulates both electricity and natural gas*

*Because the Government of BC has stated that they would like to, "find some relief for British Columbians at the pumps".*

**Be it resolved that the Sunshine Coast Labour Council states the need for regulation, in the strongest possible terms, to the BC Government, then promotes and supports the regulation of gasoline prices by the BC Utilities Commission.**

*Moved, seconded and approved unanimously May 1, 2019*