

**Date Submitted:** July 17, 2019

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

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

**Name (first and last):** Barry J JANYK

**City:** Gibsons

**Province:** British Columbia

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**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

**Comment:**

A comment on fuel companies' attitudes as indicated by their actions....

**Barry J Janyk**

17 July 2019

BC Utilities Commission  
#410 - 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to provide the commission a short anecdote related to an event that occurred in 2000 – in my first of four terms as mayor of the town of Gibsons.

I'd had several complaints regarding the price of gasoline locally. Some people felt – as I did – that the price per litre on the Sunshine Coast should be substantially lower than that of the lower mainland - in large part due to the relief from the transit tax which I believe at that time was around 12 cents/litre.

I decided to write the owners of the three gas stations in Gibsons – a Shell, a PetroCan and a Chevron to enquire. My first round of letters went unanswered. After a month I wrote again. I received *one* response – a hand delivered and hand-written message in red ink on the town envelope advising me that this was “none of my business”. And that was that... That was the degree of cooperation and insight provided to a fair enquiry by a community's mayor. I believe it speaks volumes of the attitudes of the oil companies, their associates and their purveyors.

Today the prices at the pumps in Gibsons are around 10 cents less than lower mainland prices – i.e. \$1.429 vs \$1.529/litre – yet higher than those of Vancouver Island – with similar shipping costs - now at around \$1.379. Even though the transit tax is now between 17 and 19 cents a litre, prices still do not appear to reflect any real rationale.

Always of interest of course, is to note how the monopolized market sets the prices at the same price per litre for all Gibsons outlets. Why is that? What other similar commodity do we purchase has the exact same cost – and what's with the .009 charge added to every litre? What other commodity has that?

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barry J Janyk