

3261 Cordova Bay Road
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9T 5X1
July 17, 2019

Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410 - 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2N3

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: Inquiry into Gasoline and Diesel Prices in British Columbia – project # 1599007

I wish to make a comment regarding the ongoing inquiry into gasoline and diesel prices in British Columbia.

As well as considering the issue of whether there is price gouging generally in the pricing of gasoline and diesel, I hope that the Commission will consider the discrepancy in prices between various communities in B.C. I live in Nanaimo. Although recently there has been a variation of a few cents a litre between various retail outlets in Nanaimo, that has not generally been the case. For many years, the price was exactly the same at all outlets. But what is more frustrating is that the price in Nanaimo has been higher than the prices elsewhere on the mid-Island, sometimes by as much as 7 cents a litre. The Comox Valley, the Cowichan Valley and even Port Alberni prices have been cheaper. It is hard to see any economic justification for that. Last summer my wife and I drove up to Prince Rupert. We did not go through the lower mainland, which normally has higher prices with the transit surcharge. But in our entire trip, the highest prices were in Nanaimo. Of interest, the cheapest price was in Vanderhoof. Again, there seems little economic justification for that.

I also do not accept the testimony of the Chevron executive that they adjust prices at the pump as much as several times per day. That has not been my experience in Nanaimo. In fact, the present price has been unchanged for a considerable period, even though there was a significant dip in crude oil prices in mid-June, based on the Brent Index, and in early July according to the Canadian Crude Index.

It is my opinion that gasoline and diesel pricing is in an oligopolistic situation, with a few companies controlling the prices. As they have not shown themselves able, or willing, to prevent price gouging, either provincially or locally, that should be done by the B.C. Utilities Commission.

Yours truly,



A. F. Wilson

cc. Leonard Krog, Mayor, City of Nanaimo