

Kill British Columbia's Carbon Tax

Submission to the Government of British Columbia's Carbon Tax Review

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About the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) is a federally incorporated, non-profit and non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to lower taxes, less waste and accountable government. The CTF was founded in 1990 when the *Association of Saskatchewan Taxpayers* and the *Resolution One Association of Alberta* joined forces to create a national taxpayers organization. Today, the CTF has more than 76,000 supporters from coast-to-coast.

The CTF maintains a federal office in Ottawa as well as provincial and regional offices in British Columbia, Alberta, the Prairies, Ontario and Atlantic Canada. Provincial and regional offices conduct research and advocacy activities specific to their provinces and regions in addition to acting as local organizers of nation-wide initiatives.

CTF offices field hundreds of media interviews each month, hold press conferences and issue regular news releases, commentaries and publications to advocate on behalf of CTF supporters. The CTF's flagship publication, *The Taxpayer* magazine, is published four times a year. *Action Update* emails on current issues are sent to CTF supporters regularly. CTF offices also send out weekly *Let's Talk Taxes* commentaries to more than 800 media outlets and personalities nationwide.

CTF representatives speak at functions, make presentations to government, meet with politicians and organize petition drives, events and campaigns to mobilize citizens to affect public policy change.

All CTF staff and board directors are prohibited from holding a membership in any political party. The CTF is independent of any institutional affiliations. Contributions to the CTF are not tax deductible.

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Recommendation

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation recommends the following to the Government of British Columbia's review panel on the carbon tax:

That the Government of British Columbia immediately repeal the B.C. carbon tax, including all revenue neutrality tools, if necessary to balance the provincial budget.

Introduction

British Columbia's carbon tax has been a polarizing public policy ever since its introduction in 2008. It has divided the province, pitting rural and suburban residents against their urban neighbours. It has caused increases at the gas pump, on heating and electricity bills, on BC Ferries fares, at the grocery store and elsewhere. And it has failed to accomplish its goal: gasoline sales are up¹ and even B.C.'s environment minister has admitted that the province's climate policy has had a negligible effect on B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions²—far less than the global recession did.

When it was first introduced, it was announced that the carbon tax would be "revenue neutral." Politicians beamed at this fact, assuring British Columbians it would cost them no more under this new taxation system. This blunted some of the criticism—for a while. But a survey of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation's B.C. supporters shows that the carbon tax is an unnecessary and unwelcome burden on British Columbians. When the CTF asked our supporters for their thoughts on the carbon tax, we were buried with emails—more than 400 personally-written accounts of life with the tax. Some of these heartfelt and personal comments have been included in this report.

While the carbon tax has indeed been revenue neutral for government, it has been anything but for average British Columbians. Residents located in urban centres—not surprisingly, where the majority of B.C.'s policy makers and climate action activists live—have generally benefitted by shifting their tax burden on to suburban and rural residents with fewer travel options. Industries like agriculture, manufacturing and resource development have struggled under the burden of yet another tax. It has been a failed experiment in social engineering.

The carbon tax's neutrality tools have done little to ease the burden of rural British Columbians. After the initial 5 per cent, \$228 million income tax reduction—a welcome cut, to be sure—it has become a way for government to introduce boutique tax credits with no link to improving the environment. These tax credits include:

- \$190 million in a low-income climate action tax credit
- \$77 million in a northern and rural homeowner benefit
- \$27 million in a seniors home renovation tax credit
- \$9 million in children's fitness and art credits
- \$3 million in an extended small business venture capital tax credit
- \$31 million in training tax credits
- \$374 million in corporate income tax cuts
- \$225 million in small business income tax cuts
- \$71 million in industrial property tax credits

¹ <http://vancouver.24hrs.ca/Columnists/NewsViewsAttitude/2012/07/02/19943441.html>

² <http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/economy-plays-key-role-in-bc-meeting-greenhouse-gas-targets/article4375930/?service=mobile>

- \$2 million in farm property tax credits
- \$38 million in digital media tax credits
- A future \$81 million credit for scientific research and experimental development
- A future \$30 million Film Incentive BC tax credit

While the average homeowner and driver is forced to pay the ever-increasing carbon tax, they have no ability to access tax breaks like venture capital credits, industrial property credits, research and experimental development grants or digital media credits. The taxpayer is no further ahead and, indeed, feels left behind by having to pay both a carbon tax and increased prices for any good or service moved by vehicle in this province.

Perhaps CTF supporter Don Pettigrew of Delta sums it up best: **"We have the highest gasoline taxes in the country, if not North America, especially in the Lower Mainland. The carbon tax is supposed to be 'tax neutral' so why have it in the first place? Oh, I guess I forgot... It is to penalize large energy users, but I don't think my family is in that category, and those who are have to pay obscene regular provincial taxes anyway."**

Despite the revenue neutrality tools and the clear efforts of government to try and extend other tax breaks to residents outside urban centres, the carbon tax is loathed throughout B.C., especially the rural areas. Many business owners and residents rightly believe it has hurt their ability to keep up with the United States, Alberta, Ontario, Asia and other competitors.

Finally, no nearby jurisdictions have followed B.C.'s lead, damaging our economic ability to compete. With the loss of the HST coming, it is vital B.C. do whatever it takes to keep its economy going. Only by growing jobs will we be able to afford the ever-increasing costs of health care and other social services.

For that reason, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is recommending that **the Government of British Columbia immediately repeal the B.C. carbon tax, including all revenue neutrality tools, if necessary to balance the provincial budget.** This would bring immediate relief of more than seven cents per litre to beleaguered B.C. drivers (The 5 per cent HST is charged on top of the 6.67 cents per litre carbon tax, bringing the true cost of the tax to seven cents per litre) and provide a much-needed shot of adrenaline for our economy.

While it would be preferable to keep some of the corresponding tax cuts—especially the 5 per cent, \$228 million income tax break—the CTF recognizes it is more important to remove the carbon tax and balance the provincial budget next year. Future tax breaks—such as eliminating the Medical Services Premium health care tax and other income tax cuts—can come as B.C. reaps the benefits of a growing economy powered by government's disciplined fiscal leadership.

The Carbon Tax Hasn't Worked

A rancher in B.C.'s Interior has no choice to use a bus. A miner in the Kootenays can't SkyTrain to work. An engineer near B.C.'s northern oil and gas patch can't bike to work. The farmer in the Okanagan can't vanpool their wares.

The B.C. government has attempted to ease the carbon tax's strain on rural British Columbians. Corresponding tax breaks like the \$77 million northern and rural homeowner benefit and the \$2 million farm property tax credit have been offered, but small town and rural CTF supporters still indicate a great hatred for the carbon tax. As Williams Lake resident Tyler Mitchell told us:

"The carbon tax not only gets in the way of ordinary families that have no choice but to drive, it also hurts everyone in the province that relies on our sustainable natural resources. While urban environments have various transportation options, there are no options for driving back roads of B.C. or almost anywhere else within the rest of the province outside of a few key cities. The tax is a slap in the face to the rural residents who work to produce or deliver food, lumber, paper, minerals and more—something that everyone in the province relies on—thereby increasing costs of production that affect everybody as well. Is it any wonder that it feels like a 'made in the city' tax grab that betrays the fact that government is out of touch with the heartland?"

When one factors in the five per cent HST tax-on-tax, the carbon tax costs drivers seven cents per litre at the gas pump. That works out to \$3.50 on the average 50-litre fill-up. While the carbon tax's stated goal was to reduce the sale of motor vehicle fuel, the B.C. Ministry of Environment's own Community Energy and Emissions Inventory statistics show the opposite has occurred in many B.C. towns:

Campbell River: Gasoline use jumped 23 per cent from 34.3 million litres in 2007 to 42.2 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 4 per cent from 30,444 to 31,580 people. That breaks down into \$93 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Campbell River. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 19 per cent from 165,198 tonnes in 2007 to 196,013 in 2010.³

Central Kootenay Regional District: Gasoline use jumped 52 per cent from 59 million litres in 2007 to 90 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 5 per cent from 57,613 to 60,378 people. That breaks down into \$104 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in the District. Overall carbon emissions in the District, from all sources, went up 45 per cent from 293,074 tonnes in 2007 to 426,341 in 2010.⁴ As Jenny F. told us:

³ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Strathcona/ceei_2010_campbell_river_city.pdf

⁴ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Central_Kootenay/ceei_2010_central_kootenay_regional_district.pdf

"As farmers in the Kootenays, this tax has had a significant impact on our business not only in day to day operations with increased fuel costs but every aspect of our business is touched as increased taxes leads to increased prices of fertilizer, materials and cost to ship our product to market."

Coldstream: Gasoline use jumped 30 per cent from 12.7 million litres in 2007 to 16.5 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 4 per cent from 9,903 to 10,289 people. That breaks down into \$112 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Coldstream. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 22 per cent from 57,234 tonnes in 2007 to 69,840 in 2010.⁵

Chilliwack: Gasoline use jumped 24 per cent from 71.7 million litres in 2007 to 88.9 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 6 per cent from 73,294 to 77,975 people. That breaks down into \$80 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Chilliwack. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 16 per cent from 418,240 tonnes in 2007 to 484,559 in 2010.⁶ As Chilliwack resident Del Tilitzky told us:

"The carbon tax has obviously created higher production costs in an industry not able to support it. We compete against an American competitor who doesn't have to pay carbon tax. Our custom lumber dry kiln operation uses between 1,500 and 2,000 gigajoules per month so you can imagine what my carbon tax bill is—between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in carbon tax. I've had years where after everything we didn't make that much profit. Just one more thing driving a nail into the coffin of our lumber industry on the coast of B.C."

Dawson Creek: Gasoline use jumped 28 per cent from 16.5 million litres in 2007 to 21.1 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 5 per cent from 11,289 to 11,860 people. That breaks down into \$124 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Dawson Creek. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 27 per cent from 105,406 tonnes in 2007 to 134,078 in 2010.⁷ As Dawson Creek resident Rod Brooks says:

"This tax directly affects my family as we live in Dawson Creek where there is unreliable public transportation and vehicle travel is a necessity for food and medical needs. It's unfair and unwanted."

Fort St. John: Gasoline use jumped 30 per cent from 29.6 million litres in 2007 to 38.4 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 8 per cent from 18,392 to 19,873 people. That breaks down into \$135 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Fort St. John. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 22 per cent from 196,789 tonnes in 2007 to 240,684 in 2010.⁸ As Fort St. John's Ron Murchie told us:

"I, like many others around here, am avoiding trips in B.C. if it can be done in Alberta. We are also planning to take our holidays in Alberta. I'm sure this will help the B.C. economy!"

⁵

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/North_Okanagan/ceei_2010_coldstream_district_municipality.pdf

⁶ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Fraser_Valley/ceei_2010_chilliwack_city.pdf

⁷ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Peace_River/ceei_2010_dawson_creek_city.pdf

⁸ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Peace_River/ceei_2010_fort_st._john_city.pdf

Kamloops: Gasoline use jumped 24 per cent from 102.5 million litres in 2007 to 127.1 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 3.2 per cent from 84,375 to 87,110 people. That breaks down into \$102 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Kamloops. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 14 per cent from 550,979 tonnes in 2007 to 628,576 in 2010.⁹ As William Faryna of Kamloops told us:

"I now have to limit our trips to see my grandchildren and great grandchildren to a minimum because of the tax grab."

Oliver: Gasoline use jumped 44 per cent from 657,321 litres in 2007 to 944,443 litres in 2010—while the population only grew 2.3 per cent from 4,450 to 4,551 people. That breaks down into \$192 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Oliver. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 64 per cent from 32,053 tonnes in 2007 to 52,705 in 2010.¹⁰

Quesnel: Gasoline use jumped 30 per cent from 12.9 million litres in 2007 to 16.8 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 2.6 per cent from 9,503 to 9,746 people. That breaks down into \$121 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Quesnel. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 2 per cent from 75,273 tonnes in 2007 to 93,214 in 2010.¹¹ As Walter Iwanciwski of Quesnel says:

"We the people in the Interior and up north that work in the bush or oil rigs need large trucks for transportation. We do not have transit."

Sparwood: Gasoline use jumped 90 per cent from 6 million litres in 2007 to 11.4 million litres in 2010—while the population only grew 2 per cent from 3,704 to 3,771 people. That breaks down into \$211 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Sparwood. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 60 per cent from 31,386 tonnes in 2007 to 50,112 in 2010.¹²

Trail: Gasoline use jumped 25 per cent from 8.8 million litres in 2007 to 11 million litres in 2010—while the population shrunk 1.7 per cent from 7,365 to 7,242 people. That breaks down into \$106 in gasoline carbon tax for every man, woman and child in Trail. Overall carbon emissions in the city, from all sources, went up 10 per cent from 50,912 tonnes in 2007 to 56,161 in 2010.¹³ As Trail residents Jim and Donna Stewart say:

"We have often thought that the current carbon tax was a waste of time. It doesn't reduce consumption and is nothing more than a tax grab."

The preceding are just a few examples of where the government's own data shows gasoline sales have gone up—meaning the carbon tax has done nothing except cost taxpayers more money. The B.C. government's carbon tax website says:

⁹ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Thompson-Nicola/ceei_2010_kamloops_city.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Okanagan-Similkameen/ceei_2010_oliver_town.pdf

¹¹ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Cariboo/ceei_2010_quesnel_city.pdf

¹²

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/East_Kootenay/ceei_2010_sparwood_district_municipality.pdf

¹³ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Kootenay_Boundary/ceei_2010_trail_city.pdf

"The purpose of the carbon tax is to ensure that a consistent long term price signal is provided to consumers so that they continue to make the choices required to reduce their fuel use and emissions."¹⁴

This has not occurred in rural B.C. because there are simply no other choices that can be made. As the data above indicates, rural British Columbians have no choice but to pay more, especially at the gas pump.

In this regard, the B.C. carbon tax has been a failure. Indeed, Statistics Canada indicates gasoline sales in B.C. have grown 4.3 per cent from 4.7 billion litres in 2007 to 4.9 billion in 2010.¹⁵ This growth in gas sales has occurred during a significant worldwide recession, bucking conventional wisdom that gas sales fall when the economy does.

Even in transit-heavy Vancouver, self-touted as the Greenest City¹⁶, both gasoline sales and carbon emission rose.¹⁷ Gas sales went up 12 per cent from 383 million litres in 2007 to 429 million in 2010, while emissions rose 4.3 per cent from 2.3 million tonnes to 2.4 million. Vancouver resident Ian Tootill explains why:

"The carbon tax is based upon the myth that government should and can have any positive effect on the consumption of a commodity where the demand is inelastic. I do not consume any less energy as a result of the carbon tax in B.C., I only pay more for my energy."

Vancouver and the Lower Mainland suffer from a tax double whammy, as TransLink has continually raised its gas tax take as well. Today, Lower Mainland drivers pay 49 cents per litre in gas taxes. As Vancouver resident Kristin H. says:

"This carbon tax has sent the cost of our gas right out of control—we pay the highest for gas in the whole of Canada."

The carbon tax has also increased the price of goods and services. Because everything is moved at some point, costs are higher—and passed along to the consumer. Further, municipalities and regional districts are forced to pay the tax, unless they signed B.C.'s climate action charter, which committed them to an even more expensive carbon neutrality program. For many mayors and councils, it was a "pick your fiscal poison" moment.

As Angus Lawson, a CTF supporter in NanOOSE Bay, told us:

"I am against the carbon tax and its increase in all foods and goods moved by trucks. The tax is a complete sham and for us on fixed income it is deplorable."

For seniors, the rising cost of everything is a frightening, and real, issue.

"My pension cheque doesn't need another tax grab by the elected officials of B.C.," added Linda Nakonechny of West Kelowna. **"The gas companies are doing just fine with the high price of fuel**

¹⁴ <http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/tbs/tp/climate/A6.htm>

¹⁵ <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/lo1/cst01/trade37c-eng.htm>

¹⁶ <http://vancouver.ca/greenestcity/>

¹⁷ http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/mitigation/ceei/RegionalDistricts/Metro-Vancouver/ceei_2010_vancouver_city.pdf

without any more government help. Do the elected officials even know or care that the cost of food has skyrocketed?"

"I am a person on a disability pension," says Fraser G. from Tappen, B.C. "As I live in rural B.C., I have no other choice but to travel to doctor appointments, hospital visits, laboratories, etc. I do not have the luxury of a transit system, therefore I must use my vehicle for even the bare necessities of life. Try living on \$13,297 per annum and tell me the carbon tax is fair."

Originally, the tax credits used to make the carbon tax revenue neutral were skewed two-thirds in favour of residents over business. This at least gave the impression that ordinary British Columbians could come out even under the carbon tax regime. But after four years with no further income tax cuts and tacking on boutique business tax credits—corporate welfare under the guise of environmentalism—that ratio has flipped to be two-thirds in favour of business.¹⁸ Digital media tax credits—even \$38 million of them—do nothing for a Burns Lake rancher filling up his truck. As Surrey's Rod McRae says:

"I don't believe it is a 'good' tax, it sets up a system for profit via carbon tax credits allowing the so-called pollution to continue for those willing to pay."

¹⁸ <http://www.mondaymag.com/opinion/162134005.html>

A Failed Experiment in Leadership

If no one is following you, are you truly a leader?

When the B.C. government introduced the carbon tax, there was much self-congratulation by politicians on being a leader in this regard. But after four years, no jurisdiction in North America has followed B.C.'s lead. For an economy about to be sent reeling from the loss of the Harmonized Sales Tax, the carbon tax is a further needless drag on the province's ability to compete.

In 2008, the federal Liberal party was trounced after running on a platform of bringing in a B.C.-style income tax nationally. The Liberals have never recovered. Quebec's so-called carbon tax is more of a transit funding mechanism, similar to the Lower Mainland's transit tax. Alberta's carbon tax only applies to the heaviest industrial polluters.¹⁹

The United States does not have a carbon tax, although Boulder, Colorado, began collecting a so-called carbon tax in 2006 on electricity consumption to help fund local green projects.²⁰ This is far smaller than B.C.'s, adding \$21 in annual cost to the average homeowner and not affecting gas prices. The San Francisco Bay Area has a small carbon tax on businesses—but not residents or drivers. Maryland's Montgomery County also charges a carbon tax, but only on one landowner, a local coal-fired power plant.²¹

No state, province or country in North America has followed B.C.'s lead on the carbon tax.

"As one of the only jurisdictions in North America to impose this tax, it is anti-competitive and ineffective to its stated purpose of making the consumer think twice before fuelling up," says CTF supporter Allen Challmie of Vancouver.

"The carbon tax has been discredited and defeated in all other jurisdictions of North America. This tax must be abolished entirely to bring some relief to B.C. taxpayers," added Kent J. of North Vancouver.

By being the only jurisdiction with this tax, B.C. has tied the hands of its entrepreneurs, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and exporters. They simply aren't as competitive as they could be.

"I know a greenhouse vegetable producer that paid \$186,000 in carbon tax last year even though he has zero emissions," said Dave Mycroft of Abbotsford. **"His competitors in Washington and Oregon who grow the same vegetables dumped in B.C. outlets pay no such tax. How's that for creating a business friendly environment?"**

"The carbon tax puts B.C. at an unnecessary competitive disadvantage to both Washington and Alberta by raising not only the cost of fuel but everything sold in B.C.," added Surrey's Trevor Brice.

The industry experts agree:

¹⁹ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/story/2008/01/08/renner-carbon.html>

²⁰ http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/LEAD/climate%20and%20energy/boulders_carbon_tax.pdf

²¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_tax#North_America

- **Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters:** "B.C. is one of the only jurisdictions to implement a tax on carbon, placing manufacturers in the province at a significant competitive disadvantage, with less after-tax profit to invest in their people, processes and products."²²
- **Cement Association of Canada:** "Before the carbon tax was instituted in 2008, most of the cement consumed in the province was made in B.C. At that time, imports had only four per cent market share, usually because of specialized products. Now after three years of the carbon tax - imports have increased to an unprecedented 23 per cent of market share. Why? Because imported cement is not subject to the B.C. carbon tax. Foreign cement powder comes into B.C. tax free. So when cement is manufactured anywhere in North America, it has an advantage over the domestic producers in the B.C. market. They don't pay carbon tax on their fuel."²³
- **B.C. Agriculture Council:** "British Columbia is the only jurisdiction in North America with an environmental tax policy known as the carbon tax. It has added about \$45 million in direct annual costs to the production of food in B.C. It will jump to \$65 million annually following the proposed increase in 2012. As a result, many affected B.C. farm businesses are seriously considering relocation to more tax-friendly areas outside of the province."²⁴
- **Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce:** "We need to remember and realize that the carbon tax puts an undue burden on northeastern British Columbia, especially when we're compared to our Alberta competitors. When contractors are coming across the border working from Alberta and buying fuel several cents cheaper and doing work on B.C. land... that's putting B.C. businesses and B.C. taxpayers at a disadvantage. We need to recognize that that carbon tax is having an undue burden on our area."²⁵
- **B.C. Fruit Growers Association:** "The commodities that have shrunk are being hit by high taxation or subsidies provided to our competitors. For example, the carbon tax makes our production costs higher than our competitors."²⁶

Business and taxpayers agree: the carbon tax has hurt B.C.'s ability to compete. With no direct competitor bringing in a carbon tax, it's time for B.C. to eliminate the tax and move on. No one is following B.C. on this carbon tax path.

²² <http://www.cme-mec.ca/download.php?file=h228ybpb.pdf>

²³ <http://www.cement.ca/en/News-Releases/CAC-President-and-CEO-addresses-BC-Select-Standing-Committee-on-Finance-and-Government.html>

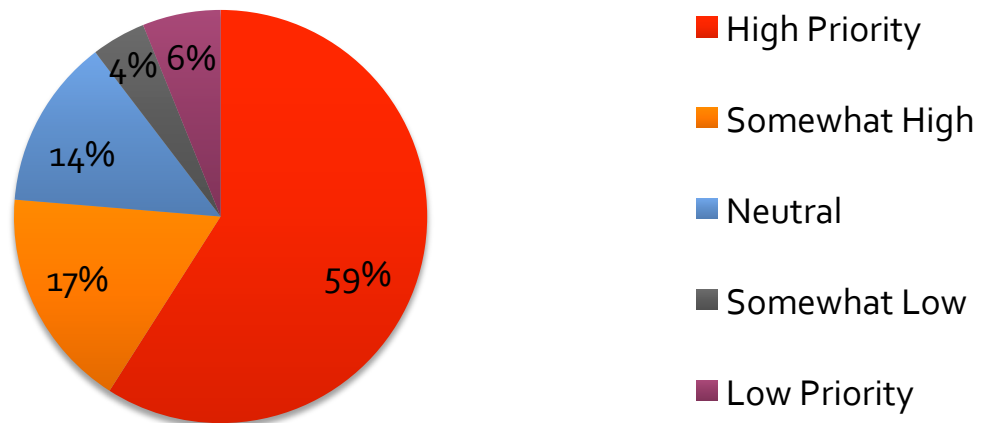
²⁴ <http://www.bcac.bc.ca/results>

²⁵ <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/39thparl/session-4/fgs/hansard/N1005am-51.pdf>

²⁶ <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/39thparl/session-4/fgs/hansard/N1013pm-56.pdf>

Comments from CTF Supporters

How important is killing the carbon tax to CTF supporters?



In a survey of more than 1,000 CTF supporters from across B.C. in January 2012, three quarters (76.3 per cent) said it was a high or somewhat high priority for them to get the carbon tax repealed. Only 1 in 10 said fighting the carbon tax was a low or somewhat low priority.

In July 2012, the CTF asked its B.C. supporters how the carbon tax had affected them. We had hundreds of people write us with their stories about the carbon tax. Here, in their own words, is a sampling of their submissions:

- "It is a rip-off and a waste. Just another gouge." (Brian Cluer, Whistler)
- "The carbon tax has raised the cost of all goods, hydro, natural gas and fuel. Time for a tax break!" (Cathy Zurowski, Abbotsford)
- "Why is our gas at least \$1 per gallon more than just across the border in Blaine? More programs to benefit the people? They must think we are really stupid." (Ian Thompson, Langley)
- "Apart from normal purchases of gasoline for family car, I also own and operate a 70-foot charter yacht. A typical fuel fill up is \$2,500 and at those levels of use our industry is really being penalized with zero benefit and indeed more added costs to potential clients. Add that to our unreasonably high cost of fuel to start with and my business is down 30 per cent. At this time, it seems the government just wants to nickel and dime us into poverty." (Dennis McMurtry, Vancouver)
- "The carbon tax is just another tax. It won't change people's behaviour and will just add to the cost of almost everything. It's just to appease the greens in B.C." (Simon Rook, Saltspring Island)

- "I would like to know how adding a carbon tax helps the environment. I would like to see the carbon tax eliminated." (Jordy McAuley, Mackenzie)
- "Carbon tax has done nothing but increase the financial burden on the taxpayer for just about everything we purchase and has done nothing for the environment." (Mel Lindstrom, New Westminster)
- "No to the carbon tax—we are the highest gas taxed province in Canada." (Ken McNamers, Delta)
- "The carbon tax does not affect me greatly, as I will continue to fill up in the U.S. until our pump prices come down. Eliminating the carbon tax would be a good start at closing that gap." (Blair P., Surrey)
- "It is a waste of company resources. If I didn't have to pay carbon tax I could hire another employee." (Dave W., Kelowna)
- "The carbon tax only adds to my gas bill with no offsetting benefit. Get rid of it." (Bud Oujla, Vancouver)
- "I would like to know directly how us paying the carbon tax, currently at 6.67 cents a litre, does in fact cause a reduction in B.C.'s emissions? And not a just public relations answer – a real answer! As consumers all it does in fact is cost more and we see no real value back other than a proposed value add down the road that cannot be validated. The amount of tax consumers already pay on fuel is ridiculous." (Dawn V., Delta)
- "Stop this social engineering madness." (Marvin Kale, Surrey)
- "I own a trucking company serving the Lower Mainland. Since the introduction of this so-called environmental fee I have had to raise my rates to offset the costs. Problem being is I cannot raise them enough or I risk losing my customers to my competitors. Therefore the drivers are out of pocket as they are owner/operators. Remove the tax burden!" (David Sorensen, Coast Freight)
- "I'm a senior on a fixed income (not large). The tax has no effect on the world's carbon pollution. Canada produces less than three per cent of the world's carbon pollution. If B.C. produced one quarter of Canada's pollution (which it doesn't), it would still be less than three-quarters of one per cent. L.A. has two or three times as many autos as B.C." (Don Hoover, Kamloops)
- "We are in great support of abolishing the carbon tax. As a household we have two vehicles and a boat. We own a driving school with a fleet of two tractor/trailer units as well as two cars for training. This tax puts up our expenses which we cannot recover." (Shirley & John Kolompar, Ladysmith)
- "Kill the carbon tax! Why should we have to pay this stupid tax as seniors in a small community? All we hear about is more TAX, TAX." (Milt F., Chase)
- "Next, I expect an 'oxygen tax.' The wealthy can pay; the poor cannot. Forget increasing taxes." (Chris Armstrong, Hornby Island)
- "What is missed seemingly is the compounding effect upon fixed income, which many are seniors but regardless, two cents here, ten cents there and ongoing year after year. Even as a businessperson, we incur, let's say, the carbon tax, which may be incidental, but we cannot turn around and put a surcharge on every client every time we get an increase. When we increase our contract price, then later more increases are heaped upon us, our profit margins decrease by such amounts. We find decreasing our spending may assist but this is not an economic builder." (George F. Evens, Mission)
- "So far it looks like another extortion of wealth transfer as the most of residents cannot avoid driving to work, and not to heat their houses." (Michael Volansky, Surrey)
- "Any tax on gas dramatically increases the cost of living!" (Jack Stewart, Chilliwack)

- "I am so against this carbon tax! We just keep getting taxed and taxed if you can't find a new one you use an old one to rip us off some more—enough is enough!" (Carol Hargitt, Sorrento)
- "I live on a very small pension and this carbon tax is a burden we do not need and it does not stop anyone from driving." (Don Harrison, Ladysmith)
- "Please abolish the carbon tax. Give taxpayers more spending power and we will stimulate the economy." (D. Jones, Fruitvale)
- "It is time that the B.C. Government reconsiders its position on the carbon tax and abolish this tax, which is financially hurting the citizens of British Columbia." (Don Slavens, Langley)
- "Carbon tax is negatively impacting B.C. families during a very difficult time. The government should be helping, not hindering, B.C.ers by eliminating this unnecessary tax burden." (Marc Rivard, North Okanagan)
- "Any additional tax on transportation is simply a multiplier added to inflation." (Vince Edwards, Vernon)
- "The carbon tax has increased my business costs, forcing me to raise prices to my clients. It has reduced my personal disposable income, resulting in fewer purchases from merchants." (Jim Fraser, Vancouver)
- "The B.C. carbon tax was 60 per cent of the cost of my natural gas in June 2012. It's not a percentage tax so there is no reduction as rates fall." (Steve Creighton, Richmond)
- "Carbon tax does not make me drive less; time is too expensive to waste on transit. This tax is yet another money grab and does no more than cause resentment." (Christine Louw, West Vancouver)
- "It is getting more and more difficult to live as all these taxes erode our so-called incomes." (Terry Molenaar, Armstrong)
- "The carbon tax has to be eliminated. All it has done is to increase the cost to businesses and private citizens while doing little or nothing to reduce carbon emissions." (Scott Hall, Abbotsford)
- "I travel for work and the carbon tax costs me every day. Every item we buy has been transported by a vehicle whose cost is increased by the carbon tax: Who do you think is paying for that?" (Rand Smith, Langford)
- "The carbon tax is just another form of fleecing the taxpayers." (Larry T., Sidney)
- "We are already over charged for gas and it's produced in our own country. Pretty sad is all I can say!" (Alanna Krotz, Fernie)
- "Carbon tax on gas for heating your home or running your car is wrong." (Don Naud, Kootenay)
- "Kill the carbon tax. We must drive to survive up here." (Gord Armstrong, Vanderhoof)
- "Not only is the carbon tax ineffective and unreasonable in its inability to control carbon emissions, it is simply a redistribution of Canadian's wealth who leaving a carbon footprint of less than two per cent, of total worldwide emissions because we don't burn coal, but rather natural gas, are the cleanest people in the world!" (Darwin Demers, Kelowna)
- "Stop the robbery." (Barbara D., New Westminster)
- "The carbon tax is just another tax, it will hurt our already sensitive economy. We need to stimulate the economy, taxation does not do that." (Dan Maisonneuve, Golden)
- "As a Liberal party member and annual financial supporter of the party, I strongly urge the Liberal government to kill the job-destroying carbon tax." (Ernest Jerome, Nanaimo)

- "Every tax has a profound impact on my quality of life. I've been retired nearly 18 years - and I'm not saying anything new when I say my fixed income has lost considerable value." (Frank A., Qualicum Beach)
- "It is a tax that will have no effect on reducing emissions and it increases my cost of living. The government has no right to do this!" (Colin Parker, Parksville)
- "Kill the carbon tax before it kills my family's ability to survive. We use propane to cook and a combination of propane and oil to heat our home. Being seniors on a limited 'non-indexed' pension, the additional carbon tax is killing us." (Vivian H., North Saanich)
- "I think we Canadians are taxed enough without more taxes. As a senior citizen we can hardly make ends meet as we still have a mortgage. This is another way of taking the rest of our money, the little we do have!" (Lloyd & Teresa Smith, Sorrento)
- "This tax just puts a bigger burden on the driving public, it goes all the way down the line. Why should B.C. have the highest gas prices in the land? Dump the tax!" (Al MacGregor, Vernon)
- "I am now retired and I can see that since then I and my wife have more expenses now due to increases in hydro rates, health care increases in premiums and now the increase in the deductible for the drugs. Then to also have to pay for the carbon tax is really insulting and hurts the middle class more and more." (John Veinotte, West Kelowna)
- "This is a very unfair tax as it is just an extra tax to add to the many other taxes we already pay. It does nothing to add to keeping things green which was a gimmick used to justify adding it on to our already over taxed fuel prices. This unfairly puts the cost of everything we eat or use as items are trucked into towns and cities." (Maureen Wakefield, Cumberland)
- "Carbon tax does not work. Every dollar of tax causes more pollution because we have to make more trips to work to earn more money to pay more tax!" (Gordon Waller, Saanichton)
- "We pay for that carbon tax in everything we purchase for our business: courier services have to add the tax, trucking companies have to add the tax not only on the fuel they use but on the additional cost of ferry fares, air fares, boats and even rail cars which are shipped to the Island by barge." (Elizabeth Lyle, Cobble Hill)
- "The carbon tax has hurt my family with the increase in gasoline prices both personally and for business." (Joe Strasser, Vancouver)
- "The carbon tax has taken disposable income away from the average Canadian, and makes us less competitive in a global environment. Many people from our community travel to the USA to avoid it. There are other effective ways to encourage the citizens to be good stewards." (Pieter de Bruin, Abbotsford)
- "Bring the bureaucrat and politician pensions in line with the rest of us and we will save more than enough to get rid of the tax and still fund carbon initiatives." (Ed Perih, Surrey)
- "Gas prices too high, no tourism, no one traveling, ferries too expensive—Prince Rupert is in a recession. Food costs up due to transportation increases. (John Paterson, Prince Rupert)
- "We all feel that the carbon tax has been only a 'greed grab' for the government, as it has not caused people to stop driving their cars. Everyone hates the carbon tax! We want it gone forever and the sooner the better." (V. Dnistransky, Penticton)

- "This tax is a fool's paradise." (Chuck Walker, West Vancouver)
- "Please eliminate the carbon tax. Our already stretched budget cannot bear any more taxes that increase the cost of everything." (Inge V., Nanaimo)
- "Let's get back to real basic environmentalism, not wasting tax dollars on imaginary solutions looking for alarmist fear-mongering problems." (Roland Seguin, Langley)
- "This tax stifles travel and the price of food you have to combine your trips." (Frank Edwards, West Vancouver)
- "I resent it each time I fill my tank." (Clyde L. Jacobs, West Vancouver)
- "Carbon taxes disproportionately affect primary industries (forestry, mining, agriculture). Since primary industries form the foundation of any modern economy, carbon taxes are weakening the foundation of B.C.'s economy. B.C. cannot operate a strong economy, one with high wage jobs, without these primary industries." (Alex Doll, North Vancouver)
- "If I did not require my vehicle for work, I would not use it as the cost of fuel is simply too high! However, I do not have that choice. At the end of the day, I simply have less money in my pocket for life expenses. We are taxed too heavily already." (Barb O'Hara, Saanich)
- "Make the outrage stop!" (Elaine Wiebe, Burns Lake)
- "The tax is harmful to the economy making B.C. business less competitive and it is a burden on consumers which results in them having less to spend on goods and services; the so-called offsets are nothing more than a renaming of tax credits that would exist even without the carbon tax; all for absolutely no measurable environmental benefit." (Alan Butler, Victoria)
- "I do not agree with a carbon tax as it raises the cost of manufacturing in BC which then raises the cost of buying products made in B.C. It does more harm than good for everyone." (Helen T., Langley)
- "This tax needs to go it does me nothing but cost money. It is used on services that have no value to me." (Doug Brereton, Pemberton)
- "Our small town of Powell River gets hit with fuel surcharges on the already costly ferry service every time the carbon tax goes up. Another increase could kill this town. Please put an end to this cash grab." (Frances S., Powell River)
- "The carbon tax has taken a heavy financial toll on me and my family—and all British Columbians. It is also clear that it is only further encouraging people to leave the province and spend their increasingly scarce resources across the US border, hurting local jobs and businesses at home. I sincerely hope you will axe the tax and instead celebrate the free market." (Julian Benedict, Vancouver)
- "I would suggest killing the carbon tax to encourage people to holiday in this province and spend money and create jobs." (Kevin Armitage, Powell River)
- "I would like to see the end to the carbon tax, as it is just a money grab by the government on the backs of taxpayers and doesn't do a thing towards helping the environment." (Kim Harvey, Vernon)
- "Our business cost of fuel has more than doubled in the last two years for approximately same miles travelled largely due to taxation. We're being killed by taxes." (David K., Surrey)
- "The carbon tax is just another tax on ordinary BC residents. It will not help save the world, nor can it." (Gary Mauser, Coquitlam)

- "Scrap it, considering China and India have 35 per cent of the world's population and no rules what so ever, it is crazy to burden us with this tax." (Gary Bruce, Kimberley)
- "The carbon tax is onerous, business killing and does nothing to affect global warming or anything else." (Brian M., Kelowna)
- "Fuel taxes, whether you own a vehicle or not, affect the delivery of goods and services for my family. So, everyone pays." (Ron B., Vancouver)
- "It is a tax grab that is pushing the price of petrol too high. This is both negative for business and the consumer. Let the market decide the price of petrol and keep the big, greedy hand of government out of it." (Hugh Johnston, Creston)
- "This is a time of considerable economic challenge for businesses and families. I do not feel that enough benefit is generated by this tax to justify the extra expense." (Ron Smith, North Cowichan)
- "Just another tax that hurts the average taxpayer and accomplishes nothing. I pay carbon tax for gas, hydro and heating—why? It increased the cost of all goods shipped by truck, so how does it help the average taxpayer?" (Robbie Robertson, West Kelowna)
- "The carbon tax causes financial burden while I am struggling with living." (Jean Ke, Richmond)
- "As a senior on fixed income in a community where there is very limited public transit and not being able to walk more than a block without excruciating pain, I have to rely on my vehicle to go shopping, banking, the doctor, etc. The carbon tax is a burden which I need relief from in order to make ends meet and put wholesome, nutritious healthy food on my table." (Brian Kirby, Parksville)
- "The carbon tax is an extra burden to gas prices that are already high, especially with the TransLink tax. Those of us living south of the Fraser, especially North Delta, don't even reap the benefits of this tax." (Lora C, North Delta)
- "Stop this carbon tax nonsense, all it's doing is increasing the cost of everything (when people can least afford it)." (Alex Landels, Nanaimo)
- "The defeat of the HST referendum was a tax revolt by your electorate, not a misunderstanding of the economic benefits. The same applies to the carbon tax." (Don Erno, Chase)
- "All this carbon tax does is take even more money out of poor Canadian families, which once again affects only the 99 per cent who have no money left." (Leslie Henderson, Revelstoke)
- "Every item that is required to maintain everyday life [is] caused to increase in prices making it even more difficult to maintain a decent life." (Mickey Nazarov, Castlegar)
- "Talk about the carbon tax after China and India are on the carbon tax bandwagon." (Alfred Kretschmer, Kamloops)
- "As a one paycheque income, we are finding it very hard to pay the mortgage and all the other bills when our weekly gasoline bill is in the hundreds of dollars due to the distance of the job site." (Vern and Laura Anderson, Mission)
- "This tax is ridiculous and solving nothing for the average taxpayer. In the north, we require cars that are capable of driving through deep snow, on ice, have four-wheel drive and are tough like the terrain. The carbon tax is a scam." (Betty Gelean, Smithers)
- "Can't afford to live as seniors in this province." (Wanda W., Penticton)
- "We don't agree with this overtaxing us again and again." (Mark and Irene F., McBride)

- "I not only live in a neighbourhood that is so expensive that young families cannot afford to live here, I pay the highest gas prices in Canada. Something must be done to support middle and lower class families which are the backbone of our province and nation." (Jan Chobaniuk, North Vancouver)
- "The carbon tax is just too much to bear." (Jeff J., Richmond)
- "It is just a trumped up 'con' to waste taxpayers money." (Linda A., Langford)
- "This tax affects us daily here in the Shuswap. Everything one does is taxed to death." (Rick Papp, Shuswap)
- "It's a crazy scheme." (MauSeng Lee, West Vancouver)
- "Greatness lies in simplicity. There is nothing simple about the carbon tax. Name me one politician who understands it. Furthermore, it is not distributed as outlined in political rhetoric. It is just squandered the same as other tax dollars." (Maurice Freer, Surrey)
- "I do not want the government to decide for me how much I should spend on fuel by imposing a carbon tax. Allow the free market to do its work and allow consumers to decide how best to spend their income!" (Richard Holmes, Kamloops)
- "This tax does nothing to reduce carbon emissions." (Gord K., Cumberland)
- "By driving less than a mile from my home (across the border), I can save about 22 cents per litre! I am sorely tempted!" (James P., Delta)
- "Because I cannot insulate my house, it costs me a lot." (Barrie G., Saanich)
- "The carbon tax increased the cost of products/services transported by trucks. Groceries went up immediately and people dependent on tourists lost business because people no longer travelled on their holidays." (M. White, Vancouver)
- "The carbon tax is an unjust additional tax implemented by the government to increase general revenues. Those of us who are scientists can say for certain that this is simply another tax grab. With all the additional taxation in B.C. our family can no longer go out even one night for dinner, and most of our purchases must come from the US where there is not any additional taxation." (Peter Nickoli, Vernon)
- "I believe the carbon tax is a very unrealistic tool to fight carbon emissions." (W. Meyer, Langley)
- "It is imperative that you kill the carbon tax. I'm a pensioner and just can't afford to drive anymore with the high price of gasoline." (William Costain, Richmond)
- "Any carbon tax is sheer lunacy!" (Randy Hughes, Brentwood Bay)
- "It does not help the economy—we travel less, do not shop as much, dine out as much. Give the money back to us in our own hands." (Debbie H., Saanich)
- "To me the carbon tax is a huge scam propagated by government and predicated on a dubious notion that somehow government action through taxation will somehow save the planet from the 'great unwashed' – you and me. It is based on a highly emotional argument that plays to the uninformed." (John Morrison, Mill Bay)
- "Carbon tax is useless and a political vendetta on Canadians. It must go." (Ashak Dhanani, Burnaby)
- "The carbon tax has greatly increased our cost of living without doing anything to make the world greener. The tax was a bad idea from the beginning. Making people pay to pollute doesn't do anything to reduce pollution. It only makes rich people richer and poor people poorer." (Ginny Jaques, North Vancouver)

- "Time to drop this tax. Is it really accomplishing the desired effect? It just seems to be another way to get blood from a stone. With the GST/PST coming back, we need to cut taxes as much as possible." (Marq Smith, Langley)
- "It is not fair to the average citizen and in particular the small business operators who are already overtaxed in B.C. How can they be expected to run a business to support their families and create jobs with an ever increasing tax burden." (J. Burke, North Saanich)
- "The carbon tax is based on ideologically-driven, not fact-based, science and not worth implementing. The tax will just cost consumers more for all aspects of life with no material benefit." (JoAnn Braem, Surrey)
- "No other province has come on board. With all the other taxes that are piled onto the cost of fuel, it is just one more unwarranted theft. Anything that increases the cost of fuel has a negative impact on me as it increases unnecessarily everything we buy." (Rod MacKenzie, Sooke)
- "The carbon tax has no impact on behaviour since it is dwarfed by the ordinary market price fluctuations. It is simply an annoying increase to the unavoidable cost of home heating and basic transportation." (Jim O'Hare, Victoria)
- "We need to get rid of the carbon tax, we are already taxed to death. My job requires me to drive over 50 km to and from work five days a week. I live in a rural area, so no public transit. Gas prices are already high enough without a tax like that." (Sylvia M., Columbia Valley)
- "This does nothing to change global warming as it doesn't really change people's behaviour in any significant way. I and most everybody else still need to drive places, so I just have less money to spend on other things, like a new bicycle." (Roland Guasparini, Surrey)
- "We are senior citizens (husband is handicapped on top of it all) and just barely getting by on our pensions now without all this added tax." (Dianne Sorensen, Surrey)
- "The B.C. carbon tax is nonsense, a drag on the economy and harmful to low income earners especially." (Derwyn H. Lea, North Vancouver)
- "It is hurting those who are on fixed incomes and some small businesses. It in turns makes purchased items more expensive as the stores just add the cost that the freight companies add on to the bills that they give the companies." (Peter Heigh, Surrey)
- "Our province embarked on a path that was driven by political and ideological motivation and not sound judgement based on facts and data. To believe that a population of some 4.5 million in a location so sparsely populated could possibly impact the global climate change that most likely is a natural event is simply naïve." (George A., Courtenay)
- "The carbon tax is not revenue neutral for me in my income bracket. I resent business and select groups receiving a tax break while I, being lower middle class do not." (Marilyn Antill, Victoria)
- "Greenhouse growers face bills of \$180,000 - \$220,000 annually in carbon taxes, taxes that their competitors do not have to pay! This makes our greenhouses uncompetitive." (Russ Walsh, Fraser Valley)
- "How many times can the same dollar be taxed? We already as consumers only get to realize less than half of our money earned." (Steve Gutsche, Radium Hot Springs)

- "The tax has caused hardship for me. I not only pay at the pump, but I understand this tax is actually costing British Columbians millions! And, since it is also costing truckers at the pump, all goods are higher, including food. I'm paying for this ridiculous tax over and over again." (Heather E., Langley)
- "It's an onerous added expense for farmers who have no other options." (Sid V., Abbotsford)
- "This policy has already moved jobs and investment from British Columbia to Texas, for no supportable reason: B.C. has been an innovator in greenhouse food production. The technology requires natural gas as an input because the CO2 emitted is consumed by the plants, which convert it to oxygen, with no net impact on the outside environment. This new tax has influenced at least one grower to build (and staff) its next facility in Texas instead of B.C. If regulators don't understand the implications of their decisions, they shouldn't be making those decisions." (Martin P., Vancouver)
- "It is unfair and useless in reducing emissions." (Ruth Harding, Qualicum Beach)
- "It is unfair to northerners." (Tim Moser, Terrace)
- "Until China and all of the other densely populated countries in the world are willing to do the same we are wasting our time, money and effort as it means nothing in the big picture." (Mable Klee, Parksville)
- "It is not going to make a difference as long as Russia, China, and India are free to pollute at will. It only punishes our businesses and all Canadians." (Arsenius Marta, Ladysmith)
- "We are struggling to keep our heads above water as it is with all the tax money we put out. My husband and daughter are both self-employed and require vehicles to attend to their business needs." (Judy Davis, North Vancouver)
- "We do not have an option to take transit at all." (Deb McDonald, Louis Creek)
- "The carbon tax has increased my expenses because I cannot drive less than I do. I need my vehicle for work. I have not decreased my driving as a result of this tax." (Peter Scott, Kelowna)
- "It is a punitive tax on consumers who are already overburdened with taxes. Many of us do not have discretion about how we use our vehicles and the trickle down effect on all costs is overwhelming, affecting everyone across the board, even people who do not use a vehicle." (Barry Smith, Sechelt)
- "The carbon tax is not revenue neutral to the citizens of British Columbia. We live on pensions and they do not go up very much so each year we are seeing our income gradually eroding because of high taxes, other hidden fees and medical expenses that come out of our pockets." (Yvette Lantz, Yellow Point)
- "The carbon tax hurts the working poor who need car transportation to get to low-paying jobs where no buses go, and to take children to daycare because bus fares per day are outrageous for the working poor with children." (Daisy H., North Vancouver)
- "Why is the revenue neutrality being used to enrich industries that have nothing directly to do with finding solutions to carbon emissions? This tax is dishonest and should be scrapped." (Peter N., Vancouver)
- "The carbon tax punishes the working person. Business at least can write it off as another expense or add it onto the price of goods or possibly both. The working person has no choice, it hits him/her every time they fill a tank of gasoline, mostly commuting to work, it hits him/her in the price of goods when they purchase their groceries and buy their every-day needs." (Bill Vander Zalm, former Premier of British Columbia)

- "I receive no benefits from the carbon tax. What I do have is an increase of cost for groceries, which are transported 321 km to Williams Lake where all living and ranching products are bought." (Katina London, Chilcotin)
- "We own and operate a gravel pit/construction company where we rely on diesel and other fuels to operate. There are no alternatives. Carbon tax has increased our expenses... there is no room in this industry to charge more. What profit may have been made is gone. We are being taxed out of business." (Anne R., Salmon Arm)
- "Edgewater is a small rural community with very sparse (several times a week) public transit which is meant to assist people in getting to medical appointments or a day visit to another valley community. We are paying carbon tax with no hope of seeing any benefit from it our area - it, as all our tax dollars and resource development dollars, goes to support services in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. The carbon tax is an unfair taxation system!" (Barbara Neraasen, Edgewater)
- "Driving is required to do my service work, 40,000 km/year, the carbon tax is crippling." (Dan Van Haga, Maple Ridge)
- "The carbon tax has raised the cost of living here on Pender Island, and anywhere in B.C., but my pension does not increase to keep up with the costs. From ferry costs to all the food and goods that have to be transported, the costs have all gone up." (Valerie Butcher, Pender Island)
- "This is the worst tax possible, it makes me compete on an unlevel playing field. Any government that thinks fuel prices are too low and I am therefore wasting fuel is simply out of touch with reality. I have no other operating options—I am in the agriculture and logging industry." (Mike Monroe, McBride)
- "I commute from Langley to the University of British Columbia five days a week; transit is NOT an option for me. I do not benefit from any of the tax offsets that are in place." (Jenna U., Langley)
- "I certainly don't believe that sucking more money from B.C. citizens is going to cool off the planet." (Marlon B., Kelowna)
- "I run a farm and the carbon tax is the final straw in pushing up the cost to the buyer. I can buy food from the USA cheaper than I can grow it." (James Maltby, Merville)
- "As seniors we cannot continue to pay for this useless tax. The tax burden is just too heavy on everyone." (Bill and Marion Bellis, Richmond)
- "I do not use transit as it is not available 10 kms out on Dog Creek road. It wouldn't get enough use to justify coming out here as we are rural. I don't want to subsidize Vancouver users." (Wayne B., Williams Lake)
- "Kill this tax! It has not been shown to have done anything to reduce carbon emissions!" (Alan Burton, Vancouver)
- "As a manufacturer I see the carbon tax directly affecting my incoming/outgoing freight costs that in the end is passed on to the end user/consumer as a hidden tax. It also makes my exports less competitive since other jurisdictions do not have this tax." (Mark Armitage, South Surrey)
- "Here we are, in B.C., with school boards compelled to pay tax to heat classrooms. That absurdity alone should be sufficient to see the tax dropped." (Vic Baker, Vancouver)

- "Canada is a big country. We travel long distances, even just to work and back. I don't see that changing. People are buying more fuel efficient vehicles as they become available. Taxing us more only makes us angry." (Mary-Lou Rampold, Lumby)
- "I am a single mom of two children, and I have no extra income to pay taxes on the already high fuel costs we are all forced to pay at the pump. I have no choice I can't ride a bike, or smaller vehicle as I have to transport a five and seven year old to all their day care and activities, I already drive as fuel efficient a car as I can afford." (Danielle P., Powell River)
- "The carbon fuel tax affected my income potential eventually forcing me to give up on additional employment from my home based business. With two young boys, each with a registered disability, and as a single parent with enough taxes to pay already, I don't like the additional cost of the carbon tax." (Kevin Hill, Delta)
- "Taxes kill jobs and don't create economic growth, especially when they are taxes that the general public has to pay with money that they already have paid federal and provincial income tax on." (Helmut W., Port Moody)
- "It has no discernible connection to pollution." (Glen S., Salmon Arm)
- "As I am a senior living on a limited income, it will speed up the time when I have to go to some assisted living place and this will cost much more than I will ever pay in carbon tax." (Dave M., McBride)
- "B.C.'s carbon tax is taking a significant and ever-increasing chunk out of the small amount of income I have left each year, to help provide the basics like food, shelter and clothing for the less fortunate. I have seen no change in the earth's temperature as a result of the hundreds of additional dollars I have given the B.C. government under this tax, and scientists say I will not see any benefit in my lifetime." (Randall Semrau, Surrey)
- "I feel that this is simply a money grab at the expense of the resource industries and the people of the Interior of B.C. as we have no alternative but to use our vehicles to access services and to get to and from work. We also have to use more heating fuels to provide for personal comfort, both for the human component and for our animals." (Alan Boyd, Lone Butte)
- "The carbon tax is unfair to low-income and rural British Columbians. It not only costs more to get to work, but increases the cost of everything because of higher transport costs." (Ed McTavish, Saanich)
- "The closest business to our home is the Husky station, ten kilometres away. The mailbox is three kilometres from the house. There is no public transit. We pay carbon tax on our propane, snow-blower, weed-eater, chainsaw, tractor, lawnmower as well as a vehicle. Once people are out of the city their option is driving or walking." (Roger Richardson, Osoyoos)
- "I drive fuel efficient cars and resent paying a tax for my conservation efforts." (Peter Fuller, Kelowna)
- "There really is no evidence that the carbon tax has lead to any reduction in carbon emissions but there is plenty of evidence that the carbon tax has added to the hardships of regular British Columbians." (Raphael Kepinski, Vancouver)
- "It makes no sense to me that the carbon tax was put on the production of food. We buy in Alberta when we can, how does that help our province? (Geoff and Frances Adams, Dawson Creek)

- “Not a single gram of carbon is being sequestered as a result of this program. Instead the fuels are being shifted from losers (coal) to winners (forest product waste). No difference in the carbon footprint.” (Douglas Ash, West Vancouver)
- “This tax has done nothing that it was intended to do, we have nothing to show for it except our pockets are more empty!” (Donna Bradley, Langley)
- “The carbon tax is aimed at a problem which is more perceived than real, and the effects of which appear to be vastly overstated both in effect and timeline.” (Michael Kotyk, Victoria)
- “The carbon tax has put a strain on our already stretched family budgets. The fact that our fuel is already the highest in the country because of taxes and then adding more tax on top of that tax is just adding insult to injury.” (Karen Bertram, Lynn Valley)
- “As a retired person I cannot increase my pension by raising more money. Therefore I must live within my means. Something that governments should try to do.” (Tony Pahl, Abbotsford)
- “I am an old age pensioner, with a limited income. I can't afford a carbon tax, not with all the other taxes I have to pay, like transit tax and tax on tax.” (Will Jupp, Maple Ridge)
- “We feel the carbon tax is a hardship on seniors and middle class families and of course the poor also.” (Jan D., Nanaimo)
- “I have never liked the carbon tax. All it has done is increased the price of production for our farm and made it more difficult for us to compete on the Canadian and U.S. market with our product. The sooner we get rid of it the more it will help to turn our economy around from the recession we are still in.” (Arthur L., Chilliwack)
- “No government should ever try to manipulate the people's lifestyles and use of products.” (Gord Currie, Chilliwack)
- “We are retired and all taxes hurt our budget and reduce our spending.” (Roy Henriksen, Pouce Coupe)
- “Already the most expensive place in Canada, B.C. now has a fully implemented carbon tax which takes ever more money from my hard working hands. Why should we be the only jurisdiction in North America with a carbon tax?” (Dennis B., Vancouver)
- “We have cold winters and long distances to travel and we pay a disproportionate share of this tax.” (Garry Scott, Dawson Creek)