

[Federal](#)

May 20, 1999

Gas Tax Honesty Day Fact Sheet

[News Release](#)[Gas Tax Honesty Day Report](#)

FACT: Ottawa spends only 5% of its share of gas tax revenues on Canada's roads. In 1996-97 federal government collected \$4,023 million in fuel taxes; they spent \$289 million on highways.

FACT: In the last ten years federal excise tax on fuel increased by 33%.

FACT: Canadian gas taxes are twice the rate of U.S. gas taxes.

FACT: Without taxes Canadian gasoline prices are cheaper than those in the United States.

FACT: In the 1999 Ontario Budget, fuel taxes accounts for 5% of provincial revenue, transportation spending accounts for 2.3% of spending.

FACT: Since 1950 Ontario government spending on transportation has declined by 92%, down from 27.2% of spending in the 1950-51 Budget.

FACT: On the May long weekend in 1987:

The average price of gasoline in Toronto was 46.1 cents/litre;
The price without tax was 29.2 cents/litre.

On the May long weekend in 1997:

- The average price of gasoline was 56.9 cents/litre;
- The price without tax was 28.0 cents/litre.

FACT: According to the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute, gasoline prices decreased during the May long weekend in 1997.

Prior to the long weekend: May 12-13, the average price of gasoline in Toronto was between 53.2 and 53.7 cents/litre.

During the long weekend: May 16-18, the average price of gasoline in Toronto was between 51.2 and 51.5 cents/litre.

FACT: Prices may increase or decrease during a long weekend. According to CPPI data, in 1997, prices increased on 3 out of 6 long weekends, while they decreased on the other three.

FACT: In 1957, taxes averaged slightly less than 2.8 cents for every 9.5 cents Canadians paid on a litre of gas, or 29% of the price. In 1998, when a litre costs 53 cents, 28.4 cents – 54% of the total – went to Ottawa and the provinces. That's an 86% increase in gas taxes since 1957.

For further information contact:

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