

June 23, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

On behalf of the Council of Atlantic Premiers, I am writing to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to ensure you understand the significant and disproportionate impact the Clean Fuel Regulations imposed by your government will have on Atlantic Canadians.

Atlantic Provinces remain committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Together as a region and in our respective provinces, Atlantic Premiers are aggressively taking climate action. We have made substantial progress to advance the green transition, particularly as it relates to renewable and non-emitting energy development. We continue to be an active partner for collective efforts to address climate change.

However, we are increasingly concerned that federal measures with a known disproportionate impact on Atlantic Canada are proceeding and will take effect on July 1, 2023, resulting in significant price increases for gasoline and diesel. These increases will create additional inflationary pressures on Atlantic Canadians and come at a time when the cost of living continues to increase.

On Wednesday, Atlantic Premiers met with Minister Guilbeault as a follow-up to our May 24, 2023 meeting to convey once again the unique and troubling circumstances the Clean Fuel Regulations create in our region. We were deeply disappointed the Minister did not provide any new information on the impacts of this federal policy on Atlantic Canadians. We were further dismayed the Minister did not offer any solutions to rectify the inequitable burden shouldered by Atlantic Canadians as a result of the regulations, even though we and others, including the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the federal Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement, have long been warning of the impact.

This issue requires your urgent attention. As they stand, these regulations ask Atlantic Canadians to take on more than their share and to be impacted more than any other part of the country. Given the pending implementation date of July 1, 2023, we are requesting a meeting with you as soon as possible. We urge you to delay implementation of these measures until further analysis and mitigative actions are in place. We look forward to a timely meeting on this matter of utmost importance to Atlantic Canadians.

Sincerely,



Hon. Dennis King
Premier of Prince Edward Island
Chair, Council of Atlantic Premiers

Copied To: Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada
Honourable Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
Honourable Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia
Honourable Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick
Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Canada
Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Canada
Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages and the Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Canada
Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Canada
Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Labour, Canada
Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development, Canada