

To: Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Honourable George Heyman

cc: Deputy Minister, Kevin Jardine; Assistant Deputy Minister, Jeremy Hewitt

April 4, 2023

Dear Minister Heyman,

Re: Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV)

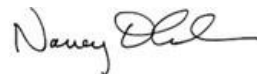
The Council is supportive of proposed ZEV standards for light duty vehicles, to be aligned with California, Quebec, and expected federal standards. However, continued growth of freight emissions from medium and heavy-duty vehicles will eclipse the gains made from passenger/light duty vehicles. Action in the freight sector is needed quickly, but data to inform action is currently lacking.

Recommendations to the Province

1. The government should consider accelerating ZEV targets for 2026 if consumer trends indicate such a possibility, especially if needed to address an emission reduction shortfall should the Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT) target prove unfeasible.
2. It will be critical to take into account that a rapid transition of the vehicle stock to ZEVs, which is essential for the reasons we have provided above, will reduce the GHG benefits of VKT reduction policies.
3. A medium- and heavy-duty ZEV mandate should be actioned as soon as possible and increased effort to decarbonize the existing fleet of MHDVs undertaken. We understand that the level of funding to support MHDV decarbonization has been identified in modelling but has not yet been approved. This is an urgent area for action.
4. As highlighted in previous Council's advice, it is critical to ensure sufficient charging infrastructure across the province, including in more remote/rural communities, to ensure public confidence in ZEV purchases.
5. Electricity pricing for households must not deter electrification of transportation, which will require a shift away from the current two-tiered rate structure.
6. We urge the government to work with ICBC to consider adopting preferred insurance rates for ZEVs.
7. We encourage the government to engage with industry to understand how other tools, such as depreciation tax credits, supportive refinancing programs, and bulk-buying can be used to further enhance the turnover in existing commercial fleets to ZEVs.



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