

March 4, 2021

Toronto City Council  
c/o Marilyn Toft, City Council Secretariat  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: MM28.21 – Motion before Council Requesting Ontario Phase Out Gas Fired Electricity Generation

Dear Ms. Toft,

I am writing to provide members of Toronto City Council with perspective from the province's propane sector while considering the motion above.

The Canadian Propane Association represents over 400 propane producers, retailers, wholesalers and distributors providing propane fuel and technology to thousands of homes, businesses, agricultural enterprises and institutions across the province. Over 125 propane businesses operate in Ontario, with just over 37% of Canada's overall propane use occurring here.

A derivative of natural gas, propane is a low-emission, cost-effective, accessible energy option with benefits for government and consumers. Propane has similar greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as natural gas, but unlike natural gas, does not release fugitive emissions before use. Converting from home heating oil to propane is cost-effective and results in an almost 40% reduction in GHG emissions.

The CPA is supportive of reducing the carbon footprint. As we transition to a lower carbon economy and other technologies become available and affordable, the need to produce electricity from natural gas will likely decrease, or be replaced by, renewable natural gas. However, the CPA is of the view that for now, Ontario and most specifically Ontario consumers, manufacturers as well as commercial and institutional users must have access to clean, reliable and affordable energy, especially as we are still barely emerging from a pandemic.

As a small but significant contributor to the province's successful suite of energy options, the propane sector opposes any proposal that would see Ontario's energy choices diminished by eliminating one, or more, cleaner reliable power source, whether natural gas or propane. Recent events in Texas demonstrate that communities need failsafe primary and back-up power sources to meet climate change incidents.

We take this opportunity to specify that propane can also play a part in helping the City of Toronto and the province as a whole meet their climate change goals by reducing GHG's in the immediate term using cost-effective, reliable propane. We believe there are exciting opportunities for our industry to work with local governments to help make the air, land and water in our communities cleaner. Whether reducing toxins and emissions in school bus, police or municipal fleets, propane provides viable, at the ready power.

Specifically, propane can reduce emissions in the largest contributing sector to GHG emissions; transportation. Many cities and towns use propane in their municipal fleets.

The London, Ontario police service has run their fleet reliably on propane for over 30 years, enjoying reduced fuel and maintenance costs and environmental benefits. The City of Oshawa is also currently converting some of their municipal service vehicles to propane.

Most recently, on January 27, 2021, the federal government, together with Ontario and the Region of Peel, announced an investment of over \$3.5 million through the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream (PTIS) of the *Investing in Canada* plan. Part of that funding will go to the replacement of existing specialized transit buses with 69 new, specialized, propane powered 8-metre buses as the current fleet reaches the end of its planned service lifecycle. In making the announcement, Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Catherine McKenna noted that “These investments will help make sure there’s accessible public transit, powered by propane, for residents across Peel Region, throughout Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon”.

In Halifax, 144 propane-powered school buses went into service in September. School bus operator Southland Transportation estimates that these buses will result in an annual reduction in GHGs of 624 metric tonnes. Given that Nova Scotia still relies on coal, coke and oil for over 70% of its electricity, the advantage propane offers these communities to reduce their carbon footprint is clear.

There is not one only solution to reducing emissions while supporting better livelihoods, jobs and communities. Municipalities are already exploring other energy sources, including the many advantages of propane and our industry is ready to support more of this good work. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss the many advantages propane could provide the City of Toronto as it looks to reduce carbon emissions and costs.

Sincerely,



Nathalie St-Pierre  
President and CEO

cc. The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines  
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation  
The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
The Honourable Lori Scott, Minister of Infrastructure