



January 6, 2021

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board
Frost Building South, 7th Floor, 7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy,

With the start of the new year and a new role for you as Ontario's Minister of Finance, I'd like to take this opportunity to reintroduce you to the Canadian Propane Association (CPA) and its Ontario members and business priorities.

Since we last met at Queen's Park during our lobby day in April 2019, you and your Cabinet colleagues have been working with our association on advancing many initiatives to level the playing field for propane fuel providers with other energy suppliers. These efforts recognize the critical role propane plays in reliably heating rural and remote Ontario homes and businesses in everyday circumstances, and its vital contribution as a versatile, flexible, safe, fuel source for many provincial enterprises to extend their outdoor service offering during this pandemic period.

The CPA contributed to the important work of the Jobs and Economic Recovery Committee last year by providing realistic industry-led proposals to facilitate a sound provincial economic recovery.

Of particular relevance to your portfolio responsibilities were support for:

- a regional approach to unlocking economic activity, which your government announced in the summer of 2020; and
- transportation fuel tax parity by reducing the 4.3cents/litre tax the province levies on propane vehicle fuel. In letters to the Minister of Finance (from CPA former Board Chair, Dan Kelly, in June, and myself in November, attached below) the CPA made the case that eliminating this fuel tax will allow the province's auto propane sector to operate on a level playing field with other vehicle fuels, grow, and contribute to a cleaner, post-pandemic provincial environment. We are optimistic that this initiative will be included in your spring budget document.

I wish you all the best in developing the 2021 Budget and would ask to be included in any pre-budget consultation sessions scheduled, as the propane sector requires more policy and program support. Our Ontario Director, Marcelline Riddell, will reach out to your staff in the near future to arrange a follow-up discussion on the sector's contribution to a revitalized Ontario economy.

Sincerely,

Nathalie St-Pierre
President and CEO

cc. Dan Kelly, CPA, CGA
Chief Financial Officer, Dowler Karn Limited



2020 Fall Budget CPA
letter to Min.pdf



Minister Phillips
question submission.pdf