



DIRECTOR REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: DR-BRD-017

From: Brad Sperling, Chair

Date: March 25, 2021

Subject: British Columbia's Carbon Tax

PURPOSE / ISSUE:

To discuss the letter from Arthur Hadland, requesting that the Regional Board advocate for a Carbon Tax Exemption for all residents in the North.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board receive the letter from Arthur Hadland dated March 2, 2021; further, that the Regional Board authorize that a letter be sent to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier of BC, the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, requesting that all residents in the North be exempted from the British Columbia's Carbon Tax; further, that the letter be copied to South Peace MLA Mike Bernier, and North Peace MLA Dan Davies.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In 2008, BC implemented North America's first broad-based carbon tax. The carbon tax applies to the purchase and use of fossil fuels. On April 1, 2019, BC's carbon tax rate rose from \$35 to \$40 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). In March 2020, the BC Government delayed a scheduled increase from \$40 to \$45 tCO₂e as part of the province's COVID-19 Action Plan. With the further implementation delay, the BC Carbon Tax rate will remain at \$40 per tCO₂e until April 2021, increasing to \$45 per tCO₂e. In April 2022, there will be another scheduled increase to \$50 per tCO₂e. The current change aims to give businesses and families more time to recover from COVID-19 while still meeting the federal carbon-pricing backstop rate of \$50 per tCO₂e by 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

Attachments:

1. Carbon Tax Letter
2. 2009 UBCM Resolution and Response