

## Canadian Energy Marketers Association and Convenience Industry Council of Canada Welcome Ontario Government's Decision to Cut the Gas Tax and Fuel Tax

April 6, 2022 - Disruptions to global supply chains caused by a global pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have caused a rapid spike in inflation, increasing the cost of everything from gas to groceries. Indeed, recent data from the Angus Reid Institute found that 53% of Canadians feel they cannot keep up with the rising cost of living, and that nearly three-quarters of Canadians have modified their spending in recent months. With the price of gas hovering near record highs (averaging \$1.95 per litre as of March 28, per [Global Petrol Price](#)), Ontarians are facing an affordability crisis.

The Canadian Energy Marketers Association (CEMA) and the Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) today welcomed the Government of Ontario's commitment to reducing the pain at the pumps for Ontarians when they need it most.

Legislation introduced by Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy will provide relief to Ontario consumers and businesses by cutting the gas tax by 5.7 cents per litre and cutting the fuel tax by 5.3 cents per litre for a period of 6 months, beginning July 1.

Said CEMA President Jennifer Stewart, "One of the more pressing crises of our time is the one of affordability. The economic anxieties Ontarians feel are real. With gas prices hovering near record highs due to disruptions in the global supply of oil, CEMA welcomes this immediate, temporary solution to make life more affordable for Ontarians as we get through the months ahead."

Added Anne Kothawala, President and CEO of Convenience Industry Council of Canada, "We commend the Ford government for addressing gas prices ahead of the summer travel season. A province in which local gas stations and convenience stores are in peril has a ripple effect. It impacts tourism, and it hurts communities, particularly those in rural areas that rely on their local store for essential goods.

**About CICC:** The Convenience Industry Council of Canada is a national, not-for-profit council that represents the convenience channel. Our members employ over 212,000 Canadians and annually distribute and sell over \$55 billion in goods and services nationally. We champion the convenience industry's role in our communities and work for a business environment where all convenience businesses can succeed.

**About CEMA:** CEMA represents progressive Canadian energy leaders who are unshakeable in their shared commitment to channeling the sector's unparalleled experience and adaptability toward helping policymakers achieve net zero. This has been demonstrated by members' early adoption of – and consistent commitment to – innovation within their businesses, and support of the federal carbon tax as the most efficient market solution to achieving our climate ambitions and lowering carbon emissions over time.