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SaskEV Extremely Disappointed with Provincial Budget

Saskatchewan Introduces Canada's First Tax on Electric Vehicles

[Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, April-6] — SaskEV and our members are extremely disappointed to learn today that the Government of Saskatchewan in their 2021/22 budget has introduced Canada's first tax on electric vehicle drivers. The 403 EV drivers in our province (making up less than 1% of vehicles on the roads) will now be subject to a \$150 annual tax starting October 1st, 2021.

This tax has been introduced while the federal government and an increasing number of provinces and territories including British Columbia, Quebec, Nova Scotia, PEI and the Yukon have instead focused on providing incentive programs, working to reduce costs which have so far been a key barrier to the greater adoption of electric vehicles. No such incentive program is available from the Saskatchewan provincial government. Polling recently showed that the majority of people in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta support the federal electric vehicle incentive.

Many electric utilities across Canada including BC Hydro, Hydro Quebec, ATCO in Alberta, New Brunswick Power, Nova Scotia Power and OPG/Hydro One in Ontario have invested in EV charging infrastructure to help ensure that rural and urban drivers can travel across their provinces. SaskPower and the provincial government have not made similar investments in our communities.

Hydrogen and natural gas vehicles in the province are not currently subject to a fuel or vehicle tax. NRCan and Envoy Energy Fuels recently announced plans for a new natural gas fuelling station in Swift Current and SaskEnergy currently operates a natural gas fuelling station in Saskatoon.

Efficiency Canada in their last two reports have called on the provincial government and their crowns to enhance investments to encourage faster improvements for energy efficiency, including in transportation through low emission vehicles. Instead this move today will hurt those adoption efforts and do little to help the province out of its last place position in the most recent report.

About Us:

SaskEV Society Inc. (SaskEV) is an electric vehicle group based in the Saskatoon region, active since October, 2017, focused on building momentum for electric vehicles in Saskatchewan.

More information:

<https://www.saskev.ca/>

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