

Canada, Again!

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Again, we are looking north for leadership. Prime Minister Trudeau was the first leader to try carbon fee-and-dividend, requiring it of those provinces and territories that do not otherwise have a carbon price.

Predictably, the fossil fuel industry is fighting back. Will the public see through their disinformation? (carbontaxworks.ca) is working to inform Canadians. One of their bumper stickers is above.

The way it works in Canada, the dividend is seen once a year, at tax time¹, when it is deducted from taxes owed or added to the refund. The effect of the fee on fuel prices is seen every time one goes to the pump.²

I prefer to see a monthly dividend. Issue debit cards to legal residents who file income tax forms. Add the dividend to the cards electronically, say the first of every month. There will be no confusion – if the carbon fee goes away, the dividend goes away. The fossil fuel industry will be talking to the wind.

Once this is started, the public will want to see the fee rise. And they will realize that they are contributing to cleaner air, cleaner water, and a future for young people. Am I missing something?

Almost 200 nations agree on the need for action. Not one has tried such a simple, honest, transparent system. I have argued the case, unsuccessfully, in more than a dozen countries. Economists agree: it would work. Running out of time. Need help. Need disciples.

¹ This year's dividend, the 'Climate Action Incentive', was received in April on line 449 of the income tax form.

² Canada returns 90% of the fee to households; <u>eight of ten Canadians will come out ahead</u>. Rural and remote Canadians get a larger rebate than urban dwellers. Rebates in provinces/territories with the federal carbon pricing can be calculated on Fair Path Forward's Rebate Calculator. A family of three in urban Ontario will get \$2168 annually from 2020–2023. The Canadian rebate Calculator is here: https://fairpathforward.ca/rebate-calculator/