

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CARBON TAX FAIR FOR ALL

June 30, 2008

The Editor
Province

I would like to take the opportunity to clarify some information in Michael Smyth's recent column on the carbon tax and industry ("Loopholes offer sweet deal for big polluters," June 29).

Let me be clear, industry is not exempt from the carbon tax. Industry is required to pay the carbon tax on the purchase and use of fossil fuels the same as everyone else – and they also pay the tax at the same rate.

B.C.'s revenue-neutral carbon tax applies to virtually all emissions from burning fossil fuels, which account for an estimated 70 per cent of total emissions in the province.

While international marine and air services are not currently subject to emissions pricing anywhere in the world at this time, there are efforts underway through the International Marine Organization, the International Air Transport Association and other organizations that could lead to pricing these emissions.

British Columbia is leading the way in taking action on climate change and we are taking responsibility for emissions produced in our province. We are continuing to look at how we can extend the carbon tax to include other sources – such as industrial process and fugitive emissions – and integrate the carbon tax with other climate action initiatives such as a cap and trade system.

Government has been clear on these facts from the beginning, and it's time Mr. Smyth shared those facts with his readers.

Colin Hansen
Minister of Finance