

CRITICAL SITUATION

OTTAWA, February 21, 2020 – There are over 100,000 families, farms, businesses and institutions like seniors' homes that rely on propane as their heating fuel. In addition to residential homes, nursing homes, schools, hospitals and community centres also rely on propane as a main source of fuel. All are at risk because of the blockade," said **Nathalie St-Pierre, President & CEO of the Canadian Propane Association** on Friday, February 21, 2020.

In Québec, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources issued an [alert](#) that effective immediately, it is mandatory for all propane companies to rationalize their customers to ensure supply to priority sectors. In Atlantic Canada, many family-operated propane companies work tirelessly to haul propane to their customers, but levels are at a record low.

"Yes, the propane industry is trucking propane in to compensate for losses due to the blockades but this is a short-term, not a sustainable solution. Customers everywhere are getting worried as retailers of propane are rationing supplies in Québec and Atlantic Canada, not filling tanks up as they would normally, to help stretch supplies to its maximum," added St-Pierre.

Propane trucks are not typical trucks. They are built in accordance with Transport Canada's Canadian Vehicle Safety Standards and cannot be improvised. Wait times are long at the bulk facility in Sarnia, Ontario, where propane is piped in from the West. Wait times vary, sometimes three hours but during congested times, wait time can be up to 10 hours.

Some retailers have required their customers to switch to other more expensive fuels that are not as environmentally friendly as propane, which is not an ideal situation.

"Our industry is doing everything it can to ensure essential needs can be met. But time is of the essence. The longer this crisis lasts, the more harm it will cause to families and communities -- and the longer it will take our economy to recover," concluded St-Pierre. Once trains do get going again, it will take considerable time for industries to get back to normal operations – up to one week for every day of disruption, according to propane industry estimates.

Canadians need energy security, especially in winter. These blockades are costing millions of dollars in extra costs to arrange alternative transportation such as trucking and purchasing additional propane to meet essential needs. There is also the threat to thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the propane sector and that of related businesses using propane, such as farmers and food manufacturing.

Moving forward, the government must find solutions to ensure that essential infrastructure such as rail is not compromised by political action.

About the Canadian Propane Association

With over 400 members, the Canadian Propane Association (CPA) is the national association for a growing, multi-billion-dollar industry that impacts the livelihood of tens of thousands of Canadians. Our mission is to promote a safe and thriving propane industry that plays a vital role in Canada's energy sector. To achieve this, we champion propane and the propane industry in Canada and facilitate best practices, safety and a favourable business environment through advocacy, training and emergency response.

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