



March 23, 2020

Dear Premier Ball,

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Propane Association (CPA) in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am writing to outline significant steps that are needed to ensure that propane is recognized as an **Essential Service** and continues to provide an important energy solution as we work together to navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

This includes:

- Listing the transportation (rail, truck and marine), handling and delivery of propane – as well as the supporting activities – as part of essential services in your province.
- Extending the licensing, permitting and training certificates by 120 days.
- Suspending periodic inspection requirements that force technicians to enter residences.

As an energy source, propane is essential for home energy, agriculture and food production, transportation, construction, manufacturing and restaurants. Propane also fuels nursing homes, hospitals and other important infrastructure.

Propane is often used in critical times of crisis such as storms and floods. Should field hospitals be necessary in response to the COVID-19 crisis, propane will be an important energy source.

The handling and delivery of propane involves many activities, all of which play important roles within the supply chain and should be considered when defining the delivery of propane as an essential service.

These activities include:

- processing, refining and transporting propane for use as end fuels or as feedstocks for petrochemical or chemical manufacturing,
- loading and offloading racks,
- propane storage, transmission, and distribution centres,
- propane service maintenance and restoration (e.g., call centres),
- propane dispatch and control rooms,
- emergency response (including leaks), and of course,
- propane deliveries.

Canada and the United States have closed the border to all but essential traffic, which will include the transportation of propane. Of note, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognizes propane workers as “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers.” With commerce so interdependent between the two countries, it is important that propane workers in Canada be viewed in the same light. As in the U.S., Canadian propane employees are critical to many functions that keep our country moving.

As well, for all those dedicated to transporting goods to customers, ensuring that truck stops and rest areas continue to be available to all truck drivers is critical. They provide an important opportunity to rest and refuel – both the truck and the driver.

Considering the obvious restrictions presented by COVID-19, members in Newfoundland and Labrador are requesting a 120-day extension on all renewals of permits and licenses. The same extension should be granted for propane training courses as well.

These are very challenging times for all of us. The propane industry is ready to roll up its sleeves and work with your government to ensure that the delivery of this vital energy source for so many in Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be seamless. Jean-Francois Duguay, Director, Government Relations for Atlantic Canada will be in touch with your relevant departments to further discuss these important matters.

Sincerely,



Nathalie St-Pierre  
President & CEO

Cc: The Honourable Sherry Gambin - Walsh, Minister of Service NL  
The Honourable Steve Crocker, Minister Transportation and Works  
The Honourable Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources