**Fighting climate change requires all hands on deck**

Dear Editor,

As a person in the energy business and a member of the local community, I have seen first-hand how people are doing their best to reduce their emissions to help fight climate change. Everybody doing just a little bit more can collectively make a huge impact.

There is no “silver bullet” that will magically provide both clean and affordable energy. Hydrogen for electrical production looks promising but is still many years away. We need an energy strategy that is realistic to meet the unique needs of our community.

While many Canadians receive their electricity from hydro and nuclear, the costs are often high, with provincial governments in some cases, stepping in to subsidize the costs. In about half the provinces and territories, Canadians still rely on coal and oil for power generation which is not very clean. Meanwhile, well over a million houses and businesses across Canada depend on furnace oil and diesel to provide primary and secondary energy.

What too often gets missed in the dialogue around energy needs and climate change are the solutions offered by propane – likely because some people have the view that propane is for barbeques or the cottage. It’s so much more. And it can make a big difference by providing relief for the pocketbook and reducing GHGs today.

Propane is a low-emission source of energy used for heating homes and businesses, agriculture, and transportation, among other uses. Propane is not a greenhouse gas prior to combustion. If it spills, it does not cause harm to air, land, or water. And when it is burned to provide energy, its GHG emission levels are 38 per cent lower than those of heating oil. There is also the benefit of reduced insurance costs as there is no danger of contamination that accompanies oil spills.

If we are truly going to meet the climate change objectives that governments have set out, there must be an all-hands-on-deck approach. Low-emission propane provides an immediate, reliable solution to reduce GHGs compared to heating oil and provides a choice for consumers who are facing increased energy costs.

With deadlines for proposed net zero target dates creeping up, let’s use all the tools in the toolbox, and get smart about how to deal immediately with climate change.