CPA B.C. Election 2026 – Member Key Messages

Propane is an important part of B.C.'s energy system. The sector supports 2,587 jobs, generates an estimated $391 million in government revenue, provides the primary energy source for approximately 25,560 B.C. households, and supports B.C.'s role as a major Canadian propane export gateway.

The overall message is simple: B.C. needs affordable, reliable energy choices. Propane is Canadian-made, lower-emission and available today. Provincial policy should recognize its role for families, businesses and communities across B.C.

With B.C.'s provincial election now underway, CPA members may have opportunities to speak directly with candidates. If a candidate asks, "What can government do for you and the propane sector?", these are the six priorities to raise.

1. Exempt Refillable Propane Cylinders from Expanded Producer Recycling (EPR) regulation
B.C.'s expanded EPR regulation includes refillable propane cylinders, requiring producers to operate under an approved EPR plan by April 1, 2027. But refillable propane cylinders are fundamentally different from disposable products: they already operate within an established circular system of refill, exchange, inspection, requalification, refurbishment and eventual recycling. A new EPR system risks imposing environmental handling fees, reporting requirements and administrative costs on propane businesses while duplicating a reuse system that already works.

Member message: *"Don't regulate a reusable propane cylinder like a disposable product. Protect the reuse system that already works."*

ASK FOR THE CANDIDATE: Will you commit to exempting refillable propane cylinders from B.C.'s EPR requirements?

2. Eliminate the Motor Fuel Tax on Propane
B.C. applies a 2.7¢/L provincial motor fuel tax to propane used in vehicles. Removing it would reduce costs for businesses and fleets and improve the economics of using propane as a transportation fuel. B.C. already has 114 propane fuelling stations, meaning much of the infrastructure required to support propane-powered commercial vehicles and school buses already exists. Eliminating the tax, as Quebec and Ontario have done, would allow B.C. to make better use of that infrastructure without requiring significant new public investment.

Member message: *"B.C. already has the infrastructure. Removing the tax would lower costs and make better use of a Canadian-made, lower emission, transportation fuel."*

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ASK FOR THE CANDIDATE: Will you commit to eliminating B.C.'s 2.7¢/L motor fuel tax on propane in the next provincial budget?

3. Protect Energy Choice

Energy policy should establish the outcomes B.C. wants—affordability, reliability and lower emissions—rather than prescribing a particular technology or energy source. This is especially important in rural, remote and Indigenous communities where infrastructure can be limited, and full electrification may not always be practical or affordable. Propane, renewable propane and hybrid systems can complement electricity while providing consumers and businesses with additional energy choices.

Member message: *"Set the outcome and let British Columbians choose the energy solution that works for their home, business or community."*

ASK FOR THE CANDIDATE: Will you support technology-neutral provincial energy policies that recognize propane and hybrid energy systems based on their performance rather than excluding them because of the technology or fuel they use?

4. Grow Made-in-B.C. Renewable Propane

B.C. has an opportunity to build on its renewable-fuels sector by encouraging greater production and use of renewable propane. Renewable propane can use much of the same storage, transportation and end-use infrastructure as conventional propane while offering lower lifecycle emissions. Supporting domestic production could leverage existing B.C. infrastructure and supply chains while creating another market for lower-carbon Canadian energy.

Member message: *"If B.C. wants to produce more renewable fuels here at home, renewable propane should be part of that strategy."*

ASK FOR THE CANDIDATE: Will you support a renewable propane production tax credit and ensure renewable propane is eligible for relevant B.C. clean-energy programs?

5. Include Propane in Energy Security and Grid Planning

Growing electricity demand is increasing the importance of having multiple options for meeting B.C.'s energy needs. Propane can be stored on site and used for backup or on-site generation, including in locations where electricity infrastructure is constrained. It is already used by homes, businesses, farms, and communities and can provide additional resilience during outages, emergencies, and extreme weather. On-site generation can also allow some new commercial and industrial loads to meet part of their own energy requirements rather than relying entirely on additional grid capacity.

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Member message: *"Not every energy need can be met by the electricity grid. Give businesses and communities the flexibility to use the solution that works."*

ASK FOR THE CANDIDATE: Will you ensure B.C.'s energy planning recognizes propane-powered on-site generation, backup power and hybrid systems as options for businesses, critical infrastructure and rural and remote communities?

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