



June 26, 2014

## **Debunking the Myths: A Factual Report on Canadian Biofuels**

To the Editor,

The latest piece by Mr. Douglas Auld and Mr. Ross McKittrick in the *National Post* on June 26 is full of misinformation.

Contrary to their claims, biofuels mandates remain the best policy tool in affecting meaningful greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions within the transportation sector. A fact proven time-and-time again by credible science and independent analysis.

Determining the overall environmental benefits from biofuels must take into account the entire lifecycle of GHG emissions, a fact the authors have unfortunately omitted.

Over a full lifecycle, biofuels generate significantly lower GHG emissions than traditional fossil fuels, especially carbon dioxide. Compared to burning traditional fossil fuels, lifecycle GHG emissions are reduced by 62 percent with ethanol and up to 99 percent with biodiesel and renewable diesel. Every year in Canada biofuels use reduces carbon emissions by 4.2 megatonnes, which is equivalent to removing the air pollution and GHG emissions associated with one million cars from our roads.

We are fortunate that the federal government – and many provincial governments – have rightly put renewable content regulations into place that are spurring economic growth and supporting agribusiness. Canada's renewable fuels industry generates gross economic benefits in excess of \$3.5 billion to the Canadian economy every year and has delivered more than 14,000 direct and indirect jobs – many of which are in small, rural communities in need of good employment opportunities. All told, the federal government will realize a net return on investment of more than \$3.7 billion. Characterizing this as a "failure" for taxpayers is dubious to the public and insulting to policy makers.

If anything, now is the time to increase renewable fuel requirements and expand biofuels use to other sectors. Giving any credence to the ill-informed policy recommendations of Mr. Auld and Mr. McKittrick would be disastrous for our economy, our environment, and for the tens of thousands of farmers that Canadian biofuel producers work with every day.

For your readers who are interested in factual and current information the latest industry report on biofuels use and production in Canada, "*Evolution and Growth*", is available for free download at [www.evolutionandgrowth.ca](http://www.evolutionandgrowth.ca).

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