



**CANADIAN
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION**

**ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DE
SANTÉ PUBLIQUE**

27 August 2025

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Minister Dabrusin:

On behalf of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), I am writing to express our strong support for Canada's Electric Vehicle Availability Standard and the regulated targets for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs).

Transportation emissions are a leading source of air pollution in Canada, contributing to cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, cancer, and premature death. These health harms are both preventable and costly. Research by the Canadian Climate Institute estimates that air pollution linked to fossil fuel use costs our healthcare system billions of dollars annually. Moreover, analysis by The Atmospheric Fund and other experts demonstrates that delaying or weakening ZEV sales targets could lead to thousands of avoidable deaths and tens of billions of dollars in additional health-related costs over the coming decades.

The health benefits of electrification are not theoretical. Studies from jurisdictions that have rapidly expanded EV uptake show measurable declines in local air pollution and associated hospitalizations. Every zero-emission vehicle on the road represents not only a step toward Canada's climate goals but also fewer cases of asthma in children, fewer seniors admitted with cardiac complications, and fewer families losing loved ones prematurely.

From a public health perspective, the Electric Vehicle Availability Standard is an essential preventative intervention. Just as vaccines reduce the burden of infectious diseases, reducing transportation-related emissions will reduce the burden of chronic diseases and health system costs. Public health systems across Canada are already under immense pressure; cleaner air and healthier communities are cost-effective measures to prevent illness, reduce hospitalizations, and strengthen resilience.

We encourage the Government of Canada to remain steadfast in implementing and enforcing ambitious ZEV targets. Canada has the opportunity to deliver major climate action while simultaneously improving population health and reducing health expenditures. Weakening or reversing course would not only jeopardize our climate commitments but also squander an unprecedented opportunity to save lives and protect the sustainability of our healthcare system.

Thank you for your leadership on this vital public health and environmental issue. CPHA would be pleased to support your government's efforts to ensure that the health and well-being of people in Canada are at the centre of climate policy.

Sincerely,

Ian Culbert
Executive Director

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