

Canada lays out plan to phase out sales of gas powered cars, trucks by 2035

By Mia Rabson
with files from Ritika Dubey in
Toronto.

The end of the road is coming for gas-powered vehicles in Canada.

New regulations being published this week by Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault will effectively end the sale of new passenger vehicles powered only by gasoline or diesel in 2035.

Guilbeault said the Electric Vehicle Availability Standard will encourage automakers to make more battery-powered cars and trucks available in Canada.

"There's no mistaking it. We are at a tipping point," he said, noting sizable growth in EV sales in Canada and demand that has previously outstripped the available supply.

Automakers will have the next 12 years to phase out combustion engine cars, trucks and SUVs with a requirement to gradually increase the proportion of electric models they offer for sale each year.

The electric-vehicle sales mandate regulations will be published later this week. They are setting up a system in which every automaker will have to show that a minimum percentage of vehicles they offer for sale are fully electric or longer-range plug-in hybrids.

It will start with 20 per cent in 2026 and rise slightly to 23 per cent in 2027. After that, the increase share of EVs will begin to jump much faster, so that by 2028, 34 per cent of all vehicles sold need to be electric, 43 per cent in 2029 and 60 per cent in 2030.

That number keeps rising until it hits 100 per cent in 2035.

"Two provinces are already above

the 20 per cent threshold—Quebec and British Columbia," Guilbeault said at a press conference in Toronto, suggesting all provinces should get "on board" with the EV plans.

"The federal government is making multi-billion-dollar investments in the EV supply chain (in Ontario). There's no reason the government of Ontario shouldn't do what the government of B.C. is doing, or Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec," he said, noting those provinces have done more to incentivize the purchase of electric vehicles.

Guilbeault added that the federal government would welcome Ontario resuming the EV rebate program that had been in place under the provincial Liberals until Premier Doug Ford's government dismantled it in 2018.

When it comes to charging stations at multi-unit buildings, Guilbeault said the government is working on the revision of the national building code.

The updated code would ensure that residential buildings constructed after 2025 have the electric capacity to accommodate the charging stations.

In the first three months of this year, about one in 10 new vehicles registered were electric, suggesting EV sales need to double within the next three years.

They already doubled in the last

three years, growing from 38,425 EVs sold in the first nine months of 2020 to 132,783 in the first nine months of 2023.

The policy will be regulated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and issue credits to automakers for the EVs they sell.

Generally, a fully electric model will generate one credit, with plug-in hybrids getting partial or full credit depending on how far they can go on a single charge.

Manufacturers that sell more EVs than they need to meet each year's target can either bank those credits to meet their targets in future years, or sell them to companies that didn't sell enough.

They can also cover up to 10 per cent of the credits they need each year by investing in public fast-charging stations. Every \$20,000 spent on DC fast chargers that are operating before 2027 can earn the equivalent of one credit.

Automakers that come up short of their sales requirements will be able to cover the difference by buying credits from others who exceed their targets or by investing in charging stations.

Automakers can start earning some credits toward their 2026 and 2027 targets over the next two years, in a bid by the government to encourage a faster transition.

Longtime Potton doctor Daniela Sielecka retires

A story about saying good-bye and embracing change

By Mable Hastings

Dr. Daniela Sielecka has been a physician at the Potton CIUSSSE/CHUS medical clinic in Mansonville for some 27 years and practicing for 34 years. She has been my doctor for so long that I can hardly remember facing health issues without her. She is our family doctor, my go to person when we are in crisis and she is more like a family member than someone professionally looking after our health needs. She comforts us in times when we must face hardships and loss, provides advice and guides us in striving to achieve positive health choices. Life just feels safer knowing she is "there."

I am reminded by the arrival of Dr. Gosselin, a new physician who joined the Potton team over a year ago, that we are all in good and capable hands. I am lucky to have met my new doctor, Dr. Bombay. My dossier has been assigned to her and I have already started to build a trust and bond with this woman who will guide me into my old age with the medical ups and downs to come. Saying good-bye to Dr. Sielecka is not easy however.

An old Sydney Poitier film, "to Sir with Love" begs the question, "how do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?" In this case however I must ask, "how do you thank someone who has taken you from sickness to health more times than can be numbered?"

When we think of heroes in life we are immediately faced with the vision and efforts of firefighters, police officers and teachers and rightfully so. For those of us wishing Dr. Daniela Sielecka adieu as our physician, comes



COURTESY

Posing last week at the farewell party held at the CLSC in Potton in honor of her retirement, Pauline Ranger (CIUSSSE/CHUS Social worker), Dr. Daniela Sielecka and retired CIUSSSE/CHUS Social worker, Robert Dufresne, a team that worked together for many years at Potton's CLSC medical clinic were reunited to share memories and good wishes together in celebration of Dr. Sielecka's long career.

the feeling of losing our hero. While she never sported a red cape nor took to the sky claiming invincibility, she sure could take a mean blood pressure!

A new chapter is about to begin and as this one closes I feel that all I can do to ease the sadness of her patients is to wish Dr. Sielecka heartfelt good wishes and an abundance of gratitude from the collective of those she cared for. We've laughed, we've cried and we've come this far under her soothing hands and gentle words. We welcome Doctors Gosselin and Bombay with immense gratitude that they have come to Potton to tend to our health needs.

In closing, Daniela... I thank you for being with me through my anxieties, I thank you for taking care of my family but most of all I thank you for your time and compassion for all these years. You will always be my hero and I would be proud to consider you a friend.

For unto us a child is born, and he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9: 6-7)

Wednesday, December 30

7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service at Sawyerville United Church

Sunday, December 24

7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Communion at Trinity United Church, Cookshire

Sunday, December 31 - New Year's Eve Services

9:30 a.m. Trinity United Church, Cookshire
11 a.m. Sawyerville United Church

Sunday, January 7

No services on the Pastoral Charge

In the name of our Immanuel – our God with us, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our family and friends, near and far, **a very Blessed Christmas Season** and all the best for **a better and brighter 2024.**

Sending light and love to all,

**The United Eaton Valley
Pastoral Charge**

