



BRITISH
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sept. 20, 2005

The Editor
Chilliwack Times

A recent letter to the editor (Tax breaks needed on hybrid vehicles, Sept. 16) made a good point but your readers should know the B.C. Government has already provided this kind of tax relief.

In this year's budget, we provided a PST exemption up to a maximum of \$2,000 for hybrid cars, which is a more generous rebate than is offered in Alberta, Ontario or Quebec. I recently purchased a hybrid vehicle for my personal use and have been very pleased with its performance.

We also brought in a two-year PST exemption for energy efficient furnaces, boilers and heat pumps.

The writer may well be correct when he predicts how we will someday become far more reliant on fuel cells and solar power. That's why our government invested \$4.4 million in clean energy and fuel cell research in the past two years to promote the development of clean energy sources. In addition, the provincial and federal governments have committed a total of \$13 million for the fuel cell industry in B.C.

As co-chair of the Alternative Energy and Power Technology Task Force, I can assure your readers this government continues to promote clean and sustainable energy alternatives.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment