



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

March 26, 2006

The Editor
Times Colonist

Re: "Eco fees aren't always the answer," March 24.

Sara McIntyre of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation seems to have missed the point when it comes to the Ministry of Environment's goal to shift the cost of managing electronic waste away from taxpayers (who currently foot the bill) to industry and those who use the products.

Whether the cost is internalized or visible, only purchasers of those products will pay a fee.

It's surprising that a group that claims to represent taxpayers would argue against efforts to relieve taxpayers of some of the financial burden of operating landfills.

The eco-fees in B.C. will likely be similar to fees that have been in place in Alberta for more than a year. There have been very few complaints about the fees by consumers in that province.

Our government will bring in a regulation that works for producers, consumers and those responsible for recycling. Pretending that electronic waste isn't a problem is not a responsible option.

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment