



Canadian Natural Gas Vehicle Alliance

The transit market is a significant opportunity for natural gas vehicle deployment in Canada. With the introduction of two new Cummins Westport Inc. (CWI) engines aimed at the transit market, opportunities have increased significantly.

CWI's new ISL G Near Zero 8.9 litre and ISB 6.7 G are breaking new ground in the urban transit, school bus and shuttle bus markets. The ISB 6.7 G is ideal for many mid-range applications, but is currently available in Thomas Built school bus configurations. The new ISG Near Zero builds on the venerable 8.9 litre natural gas engine, but has been re-engineered to meet California Air Resource Board and U.S. EPA greenhouse gas emission (GHG) requirements ahead of the regulated timeframe. Both of these new transit engines are at the cutting edge of emissions reductions and actually outperform electric busses in California and other jurisdictions with high GHG emitting electricity generation – like Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, here in Canada.

Last December, at the natural gas vehicle industry symposium, we heard from municipal fleet managers, that greater use of natural gas vehicles, particularly for transit and refuse fleets, represent a significant opportunity to reduce fleet operation costs. The natural gas vehicle industry has known this for quite some time, but hearing it directly from fleet managers from large Canadian municipalities can really help to increase adoption.

More recently, the University of British Columbia's Clean Energy Research Centre (CERC) sponsored a one day natural gas technologies futures event as part of the BCTECH conference. The CERC event itself was a tremendous undertaking, one that will be profiled in a later ED Report, covering a variety of aspects of natural gas vehicle adoption, ranging from large marine vessels to much smaller trucks and busses. As part of the on-road vehicle panel sessions, a representative from BC Transit presented an update on their experience with natural gas transit vehicles. Operating multiple transit fleets, excluding urban Vancouver, BC Transit had a unique opportunity to compare diesel and natural gas bus performance. As one of the leading natural gas transit fleet operators in Canada, the natural gas fleets are in Nanaimo (since 2014) and Kamloops (since 2015). Conference delegates heard that BC Transit's experience with natural gas has been outstanding. In addition to significant fuel savings over the cost of diesel, a total operations savings of 50 percent was realized in its natural gas bus operations. Natural gas transit busses are not only reducing emissions, they are reducing a number of other operating costs.

CNGVA will be bringing the natural gas for transit message to the upcoming Ontario Public Transit Association (OPTA) conference in Toronto, April 9th to 12th. With the support of key Ontario based members, CNGVA has arranged for a session with the OPTA's maintenance committee roundtable at 3:00 pm on April 11th. OPTA members attending the Ontario Transportation Expo and conference are invited to join. Russell Davies, Manager of Calgary Transit will be sharing his insights with members of the OPTA maintenance committee. As was noted at the December 2016 natural gas vehicle symposium, the Calgary Transit story is quite compelling.

Thanks to the generous support of Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas, CNGVA will also be hosting a lunch and learn with representatives of the Government of Ontario. The focus of the lunch and learn will be on the municipal and transit natural gas opportunities in Ontario. Lunch time panelists will include: Bruce Winchester, CNGVA Executive Director; Rob Orpin, Solid Waste Management, City of Toronto; and Russel Davies, Manager of Calgary Transit. This will be a great opportunity to build public policy support for enriched municipal and transit funding, through the federal-provincial infrastructure agreements, to better support municipalities that are deploying natural gas vehicles.

For more information please contact [Bruce Winchester](#), CNGVA Executive Director