

Fuel Tax at Federal & Provincial Level to Rise April 1

Taxes for fuel are to rise at the federal and Alberta provincial level effective Monday, April 1.

“Two years ago, the Government of Alberta introduced the fuel tax relief program to help Albertans facing high prices at fuel pumps. Since then, the program has saved drivers more than \$2 billion and helped slow the rise of inflation in our province,” said President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance Nate Horner.

“The fuel tax relief program is designed to save Albertans money when oil prices are high and bring in needed government revenue when oil prices drop. Since oil prices averaged below \$80 per barrel during the most recent quarterly review period, the provincial fuel tax for gas and diesel will be 13 cents per litre starting April 1,” said Horner.

In 2024-25, fuel tax revenue is forecast at \$1.4 billion, which Horner says will help fund everything from better roads to improved health care and more supports in the classroom to continue to meet the needs of Alberta’s growing population.

“Albertans will continue to pay some of the lowest fuel prices in the country even after the fuel tax rate takes effect. As of mid-March, gas prices in Alberta remained 11 cents below the national average and were a full 22 cents lower than when we first announced the fuel tax relief program in March 2022.

Alberta’s government laid out the rate schedule for the fuel tax relief program last year. When oil prices go back up, the fuel tax rate will come back down. If oil prices rise above \$79.99 per barrel, the program will kick back in and the fuel tax rate will drop.

“We will continue to review the fuel tax on a quarterly basis . . .” said Horner.

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Sweet and Savoury Easter Side

Easter Sunday will be celebrated on March 31. Easter is a day for spiritual reflection and celebration, and also an opportunity to gather with family members for a delicious dinner.

Traditional main courses for Easter include lamb and ham, so home cooks may want to select side dishes that can work with both. Sweet potatoes are a healthy option that also are tasty and nutritious. While some people associate sweet potatoes with the marshmallow-covered dish common around Thanksgiving, they can be sweet or savory, depending on preference. This recipe for “Savory Sweet Potato Mash” makes a delicious side dish worth enjoying. Try it, courtesy of “Danielle Walker’s Eat What You Love” (Ten Speed Press).

Savory Sweet Potato Mash

Serves 4 to 6

- 3 pounds** Garnet sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1/2 Cup** almond milk
- 1 1/2 Tsp** fine sea salt
- 3/4 Tsp** freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 Cup** melted ghee
- 1 Tbsp** finely chopped fresh thyme, plus whole leaves for garnish

Food Time!

Place the sweet potatoes in a large saucepan and add enough water to cover by 2 inches. Bring the potatoes to a boil over high heat, then turn the heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, about 18 minutes. Remove the potatoes from the heat, drain the water from the pan, then return the potatoes to the pan.

Add the almond milk, salt and pepper to the potatoes and use a potato masher to mash to your desired consistency. Drizzle with the ghee, sprinkle in the chopped thyme, and stir gently until just combined. Garnish with thyme leaves and serve warm.

Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for 3 days. Reheat in a dry skillet over medium-low heat until heated through, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes.

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