

ROAD BLOCK

Availability of charging stations could detour regional travel plans

It's possible to drive across Atlantic Canada in an Electric Vehicle (EV), but access to charging stations could be an issue warns Kevin Peters, chief operating officer of Hickman Automotive Group.

There are only 264 charging stations across Atlantic Canada. By comparison, Irving Oil alone has over 900 fuelling locations.

Still, interest in electric-powered vehicles is on the rise, says Peters, whose company has sold a number of them to both private and commercial customers. "There were 8,000 EVs purchased across Canada in the first quarter of 2019—a 25 per cent increase over the same period the year before."

As people become more aware of the lower maintenance costs and environmental advantages of EVs compared to combustion engines, and as EV battery costs go down and their quality goes up, Peters says we can expect to see a lot more EVs on the road in the near future. "Some countries have already committed to banning combustion vehicles altogether by 2040," he says.

Here in Atlantic Canada, it's a question of what will come first: will more EV purchases drive more charging stations, or will more charging stations lead to increased EV purchases? Peters predicts it will be a combination of both.

For now, EV road trippers can usually rely on finding a charging station at an automotive dealership (Peters confirms that you'll find them at Hickman's locations). Beyond that, you might want to visit <https://chargehub.com/en/countries/canada> for a list of sites.

Types of Electric Vehicle charging stations



Usually found:
home
8–30 hours
per charge



Usually found:
work/home
4–10 hours
per charge



Usually found:
commercial
establishments/
automotive
dealerships
.3-1 hour
per charge

Number of charging stations per province



Deloitte appoints Sheri Penner as Regional Managing Partner, Atlantic

Congratulations to Sheri Penner on her new position as Regional Managing Partner (RMP) for Deloitte in Atlantic Canada.

In her role, she manages Deloitte's marketplace activities and brand throughout the region, working closely with our people to serve our Atlantic clients. As RMP, Sheri also serves on the Canadian firm's management executive team.

Her previous roles include New Brunswick tax practice leader, National Private Tax Leader, and elected member of Deloitte Canada's board of directors. Sheri has also served as a member of Deloitte's executive for the Ontario region as the regional Consumer Business leader and led tax practices in both St. Catharines and Burlington. She has worked with a wide range of clients, from small to very large companies over the course of her career. Much of that career has centred on companies in Ontario and New Brunswick, with a focus on oil and gas, as well as the consumer and industrial product industries. Sheri's technical experience includes domestic tax planning, estate and succession planning, as well as Canadian corporate and personal tax compliance.

Deloitte has five offices in the region: Halifax, Nova Scotia; St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador; and Saint John, Moncton, and Fredericton in New Brunswick. The Atlantic practice includes approximately 300 professionals in audit, tax, consulting, risk, and financial advisory.



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