

## Mileage rate calculation

A mileage rate calculation exercise done by the Cross Cancer Institute has come up with some interesting conclusions.

The CCI used Canada's Fuel Consumption Guide to estimate the cost of gas used by various vehicles per kilometre driven. Here are two examples:

1. The guide suggests that a 2000 Ford truck with a V8 engine (gas guzzler) uses 16.1 L of gas per 100 km. At a cost of 89.9 cents per litre for fuel, this truck runs at a cost of 14.47 cents per km for gas (16.1 x 89.9 divided by 100).
2. The guide suggests a 2000 Toyota Corolla (fuel efficient) uses 9.9 L of gas per 100 km. At a cost of 89.9 cents per litre, this car runs at a cost of 8.9 cents per km for gas (9.9 x 89.9 divided by 100).
3. Even using today's more realistic fuel costs of \$1.10/litre, the Ford truck operates at a cost of 17.1 cents per km for gas (16.1 x 1.10 divided by 100) and the Toyota operates at a cost of 10.9 cents per km (9.9 x 1.10 divided by 100).

Now, these figures are best case scenario, driving at optimum conditions to reduce gas consumptions. So, the recommendation is to add an additional 25% on to the calculated figures to be more realistic. The adjusted cost for the Ford truck is + 3.6 cents = 18.07 cents and for the Toyota Corolla + 2.5 = 11.4 cents.

Responding to the concerns of volunteers regarding rising fuel costs, the CCI stated, "We realize that the cost of fuel is rising, but at this time the reimbursement does cover fuel costs, in addition to wear and tear."

AMA suggests the following tips to reduce fuel costs:

- Consider a fuel-efficient vehicle or hybrid for your next vehicle purchase.
- Lower your highway cruising speed.
- Avoid jackrabbit starts and stops.
- Maintain proper tire pressure, as this can improve fuel consumption by 10 per cent.
- Keep your vehicle properly maintained.
- Don't carry unnecessary weight in your trunk or pickup box.
- Carpool when you can.
- Plan your trips by combining errands to reduce travel/
- Cut back on unnecessary idling.