CEVforBC™ Blog Post: Future of Electrics

With each passing year, we have seen the automotive industry inch closer and closer towards an electric future, with each new electric vehicle (EV) unveil.

Car makers are investing billions into green, environmentally-friendly autos and governments around the world are following suit by building more charging systems to accommodate them.

British Columbia, for example, has the largest charging network in Canada and the government is constantly building more to accommodate the increasing number of plug-in vehicles on the roads.

Early adopters have proven that plug-ins are practical, safe and sustainable, and many governments have found them to be a crucial part of the solution in improving air quality and reducing emissions.

Not surprisingly, China, traditionally one of the biggest global polluters, is one of the most progressive EV adopters. At the 2017 Shanghai Auto Show, automakers unveiled all-electric SUV's. EVs until now have largely been sedans, but with four electric SUV unveils from Jaguar, Audi and the European brands PSA Group and Skoda, we can only expect other auto manufacturers to produce their own models.

But it's not only large countries like China and India adopting EV fleets and driving up the demand. It was reported earlier in the year that half of all new cars in Norway are either electric or hybrid for 2017. The country also has the highest number of EVs per capita and the world's largest fast-charging station.

In Canada, the future of electric vehicles has started to take shape as more and more people opt to drive an EV over a traditional gasoline-powered vehicle. In 2016, new electric vehicles sales totaled 11,000 units (a 56 per cent increase from the previous year).

The introduction of EVs onto B.C.'s roads has not only given consumers another transportation option, but it has physically altered the landscape as well. British Columbia's growing charging network now boasts over 1,100 public, Level 2 charging stations and 30 fast-charging stations.

EVs also come with some of the most technologically advanced elements that have never been seen before in the auto industry, such as "one-pedal driving." And are naturally idle free.

One-pedal driving is a feature that is exclusive to electric cars and allows the vehicle to be driven almost completely with the accelerator pedal alone.

We are already in an era where vehicles pollute less or require two pedals to drive, and the EVs of the future will be able to do even more. Regardless of whether that future involves electric pick-up trucks or even self-driving cars, one thing's for certain – EVs are here to stay.