



BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy adds new members, including BC Craft Brewers Guild, BC Asian Restaurant Café Owners Association, in effort to keep affordable, dependable energy choices to heat homes, cook food, run businesses as municipalities increasingly block options for new homes, buildings

VANCOUVER – The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE] has added several new members, including the BC Craft Brewers Guild and the BC Asian Restaurant Cafe Owners Association, in its effort to keep affordable, dependable energy choices available to heat homes, cook food and run businesses as municipalities increasingly block options for new homes and buildings.

BC CADE Director Bill Tieleman says other organizations and businesses have contacted the Coalition and are interested in joining since it launched last Wednesday.

“We are thrilled at the number of groups from all sectors who have joined the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy – most recently the **BC Craft Brewers Guild**, representing dozens of breweries across the province; the **BC Asian Restaurant Cafe Owners Association**, representing Asian restaurants, **Mott Electric**, one of Metro Vancouver’s largest electrical contractors; **Urban Fireplaces**, a custom fireplace store serving Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley; and **Heat Savers Home Comfort**, a fireplace and stove company serving Victoria’s Capital Region,” Tieleman said.

“All our coalition members are concerned that the early municipal imposition of the Zero Carbon Step Code regulations effectively banning renewable natural gas and natural gas and – in the future – hydrogen – from all new buildings will dramatically increase the cost of energy for the public and business while increasing dependence on just one source – electricity.

Currently, BC Hydro estimates that only 19% of BC’s total energy is supplied by electricity, Tieleman says.

“The Coalition is worried that after BC Hydro was forced to half a billion dollars’ worth of electricity last year due to droughts and low water levels, and the same likely to happen again this year, British Columbians should have dependable and affordable energy choices available to heat their homes, cook their food and run their businesses, Tieleman said. “Now is not the time for municipalities to block energy sources that may be critical to our provincial economy and jobs.”

“After Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Richmond and other large municipalities voted to implement bans on renewable natural gas and natural gas hookups in new buildings, people started to realize this will not only take away residents’ option to have their building or business heated with renewable natural gas or natural gas but will also prevent them from having a gas stove, a gas fireplace or a gas barbeque – we need to keep those energy choices, not eliminate them,” Tieleman said.

“We do not oppose electrification as a choice, but we believe British Columbians will make their own wise decisions to protect both their ability to heat their homes and run their businesses with dependable, affordable energy,” Tieleman said. “There’s more than one way toward a renewable energy future. We need to be realistic when it comes to ensuring we have an affordable and dependable energy system.”

Other members of the Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy include: the BC Restaurant and Food Services Association; the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 213; the Surrey Board of Trade; the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade; the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association of Canada; Restaurants Canada; UA Local 170; the Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC Branch; Valor Radiant Gas Fireplaces; Pioneer Fireplace; the Limona Group; the South Asian Business Association; Northwest Stoves; AlignWest Homes; the Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC; and the BC Hotels Association.

The BC CADE website – www.bccade.ca – explains the choices BC needs to make to continue to have affordable, dependable energy and why with current drought conditions there could be a serious electricity shortage and high import costs.

PLEASE SEE QUOTES FROM SOME BC CADE MEMBERS FOLLOWING.

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What they are saying – quotes from some BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy:

British Columbia Restaurant and Foodservices Assn – Ian Tostenson, President/CEO:
“Natural gas and eventually renewable natural gas is a critical and affordable cornerstone of our 18 billion dollar restaurant industry. It fuels the diversity and ethnicity of kitchens throughout BC. The conversion of our industry to electricity would render us practically inoperable and financial devastated.”

Canadian Federation of Independent Business - Jairo Yunis, CFIB’s Director for BC and Western Economic Policy: "BC small businesses are concerned about governments plans to restrict dependable and cost-effective energy sources like natural gas. Access to reliable and affordable energy is essential for small businesses to thrive and drive much-needed economic growth in the province. If these restrictions move forward, both residents and businesses will be forced to absorb higher energy costs, diminishing the province's competitiveness."

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 213 – Jim Lofty, Business Manager:
"IBEW Local 213 is pleased to work with other labour, business and community groups to

ensure that British Columbia has the energy it needs, when and where it needs it - that's what our members help do right across the province."

Surrey Board of Trade - Anita Huberman, President & CEO: "The Surrey Board of Trade has joined this initiative to ensure that there is access to a variety of clean and affordable energy sources, which is key to the development of agriculture, businesses, communications, education, healthcare and transportation."

Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada - Laura Litchfield, President: "We are thrilled to join this strong coalition of businesses, labour organizations, and allied associations working to protect consumer choice. It is critical to ensure B.C. residents have access to affordable and dependable energy, and we are heartened to see the enthusiasm of our coalition partners toward achieving this shared goal."

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade - Bridgitte Anderson, CEO and President: "We are happy to join the call for a reliable and affordable approach to energy policy that is good for consumers and for business. We need a practical and coordinated approach, not a patchwork of rules that change when you cross a municipal boundary."