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BC Coalition for Affordable Energy strongly supports Vancouver City Council decision Tuesday night to include choice of renewable natural gas, natural gas, hydrogen in home and business heating in new construction in near future

VANCOUVER – The BC Coalition for Affordable Energy strongly supports a Vancouver City Council decision on Tuesday night to include the choice of renewable natural gas, natural gas and – in the future – hydrogen fuels for home and business heating in new construction in the near future.

Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, said the previous Vancouver City Council had accelerated imposing bylaws that are similar to the BC Zero Carbon Step Code regulations that are required provincially by 2030, effectively banning renewable natural gas, natural gas and hydrogen from new buildings.

“Vancouver City Council has now made a wise decision to give consumers and builders the choice of whether to use electric or renewable natural gas and natural gas in new buildings after seeing that we need affordable and dependable energy choices at a time when BC is suffering serious electricity shortfalls and impending higher costs,” Tieleman said. “When implemented by November 1 or sooner, Vancouver’s new regulations will allow that choice while still moving towards the provincial goals of higher energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.”

Tieleman noted that BC Hydro imported \$500 million in electricity last year – 20% of its total electricity – and this year looks even worse due to snowpack and river levels at their lowest since 1970.

“The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy is advocating for a measured approach that doesn’t negatively impact businesses and families across BC and this Vancouver decision reflects that,” Tieleman added.

BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy members strongly supported the Vancouver City Council decision:

Ian Tostenson, President/CEO, BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association: “Our industry is so dependent on natural gas and affordability for our guests and applauds the City Council for this common sense direction. This decision is fair, balanced, inclusive and will motivate us all to work together for the future of our climate by not solely relying on limited energy choices.”

Jairo Yunis, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Director for British Columbia and

Western Economic Policy: “The CFIB commends the City of Vancouver for its strategic decision to reallow natural gas in new construction. This move supports both housing and energy affordability, making projects easier and more cost-effective to build for small business home builders and benefiting residents with lower utility bills.”

Mike McNeice, Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada, Director of Public Affairs: “Allowing natural gas in new housing will support affordability, reliability, and consumer choice. Protecting access to affordable heating options while also supporting future RNG and hydrogen blending is smart policy. “We welcome this news and commend Vancouver City Council for their effort.”

Anita Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade: "Restoring the ability for natural gas heating in new home construction is a positive step forward for both businesses and residents. It's a win-win situation that supports economic growth and sustainable living."

Jeff Guignard, Executive Director, the Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC: “This will really make a difference for Vancouver’s hospitality industry. Allowing natural gas will help us build an affordable and sustainable city with a thriving small business community.”

Tieleman said the Coalition continues to advocate that other municipalities who have imposed the Zero Carbon Step Code well ahead of provincial deadlines reconsider their decisions considering the BC drought and electricity shortages.

“Coalition members are deeply concerned that those municipalities who have dramatically speeded up implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code are taking away from consumers the choice of an affordable and reliable source of energy and replacing it with higher costs, especially from electricity imports that are not reliable and not carbon-free either,” Tieleman said.

A growing number of business organizations, labour groups, and companies opposed to the early implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code have joined BC CADE, whose members now include:

- BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association
- International Union of Electrical Workers Local 213
- Surrey Board of Trade
- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
- Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada
- Restaurants Canada
- UA Local 170
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC Branch
- Valor Radiant Gas Fireplaces
- Pioneer Fireplace
- The Limona Group
- South Asian Business Association
- BC Asian Restaurant Cafe Owners Association
- Northwest Stoves
- Align West Homes
- Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC
- BC Building Trades

- Concorde Distributing
- Jackson Grills
- Ready Propane
- Napoleon Grills & Fireplaces
- Continental Fireplaces & HVAC
- Maxquip
- Mott Electric
- Regency Fireplace Products
- BC Craft Brewers Guild
- Heat Savers
- Urban Fireplaces
- Burden Propane

Websites: www.bccade.ca