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New polling shows very strong 74% support across BC for choice on heating homes and businesses, not an effective ban on renewable natural gas/natural gas, says BC Coalition for Affordable Energy – as issue debated in several municipalities

VANCOUVER – New polling released today by BC Coalition for Affordable Energy shows very strong 74% support across the province for giving consumers choice on heating their homes and businesses, and not having municipalities effectively ban renewable natural gas and natural gas – as several already have.

As municipalities, including Vancouver, Richmond, Maple Ridge and others, debate either reversing or imposing early adoption of regulations effectively banning renewable natural gas and natural gas, the province-wide poll shows 74% of respondents want a choice on heating homes or businesses. Just 12% support bans that several municipalities have already imposed for new construction. Another 14% didn't know or have an opinion. [\[Polling data – click here.\]](#)

Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, says the polling results clearly show that municipalities such as Vancouver and Richmond need to reconsider their effective bans based on the BC Zero Carbon Step Code – which they are doing – and others planning on bans – like Maple Ridge – need to think again.

“British Columbians clearly want to have a choice on energy sources to heat their homes and businesses – a choice that includes affordable and dependable renewable natural gas and natural gas and potentially hydrogen in the future – not have them banned by municipal councils,” Tieleman said. “This poll shows that imposing electricity-only in new buildings is both unpopular and expensive for consumers and businesses.”

Tieleman said the Coalition commissioned the poll of 1275 British Columbians by Pollara Strategic Insights, a national research firm, between October 2 and October 10.

The poll also showed that 78% of Metro Vancouver respondents outside Vancouver and Surrey supported choice on energy. Surrey respondents supported choice with 74% in favour, while Vancouver respondents supported choice with 60% agreement. And 80%

of Interior and Northern respondents wanted choice of energy, as did 68% of Vancouver Island respondents.

“This question should have already been asked of residents by those municipal councils that have already effectively banned renewable natural gas and natural gas in new construction – because quite clearly there is no support for such bans right across BC,” Tieleman said. “The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy supports choice – not bans – and believes British Columbians will make wise choices on their own, not being forced by unaffordable regulations they don’t support.”

The poll also shows strong support for energy choice amongst respondents who voted for all three major political parties in the recent BC election, with 64% of BC NDP voters, 92% of BC Conservative voters, and even 64% of Green voters supporting choice over effective bans.

It also showed strong support for choice amongst respondents from the Chinese-Canadian community, at 77%, and South Asian-Canadian community, at 70%, as well as by gender and age group.

“The simple lesson from this polling is that British Columbians don’t like being told what to do by their municipal governments when it comes to how they should heat their homes and businesses,” says Tieleman. “Municipalities that have already passed effective bans should reverse them and those considering bans should stop now.”

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 Zero Carbon Step Code calls for an effective ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas in new construction by 2030.

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
- BC Building Trades
- 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
- UA Local 170

- Northwest Stoves
- Align West Homes
- Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC
- 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

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[\[Polling data – click here.\]](#)