



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy pleased to add BC Chamber of Commerce and Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating to its growing membership that calls for municipalities to stop early imposition of Zero Carbon Step Code that effectively bans renewable natural gas and natural gas in new buildings

VANCOUVER – The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy has added one of BC’s largest business associations, the BC Chamber of Commerce, and a national organization, the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating, to its membership as efforts increase to keep affordable, dependable energy choices like renewable natural gas and natural gas to heat homes, cook food, and run businesses in BC.

The BC Chamber represents 100 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and 36,000 businesses of every size, and from every sector and region of the province.

Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, says early imposition of BC’s Zero Carbon Step Code and similar regulations is taking away choice from consumers and businesses on whether renewable natural gas and natural gas would provide them a more affordable and dependable energy source.

“Our growing Coalition shows that business, labour and community organizations in BC are deeply concerned that municipalities are taking away from consumers 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.

Fiona Famulak, President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce says: “We need to provide British Columbians with choice. Rather than favouring one energy source over the other, all options must be on the table. If we want the economy and environment of the future, we are going to need more energy. We must therefore ensure the energy we access today remains affordable and accessible to businesses and consumers.”

“As BC’s largest and most broadly-based business organization, we advocate for a business environment that is inclusive, innovative, and competitive,” said Famulak. “We believe that when businesses succeed, they enable families to thrive and communities to grow in a sustainable way.”

Also joining the Coalition is the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CFIB), representing the plumbing and heating sector across British Columbia and the country. CIPH, Chief Executive Officer, Satinder Chera, highlights the need for fair, consistent, and market-driven rules around consumer heating needs.

“The province has already set rules around energy sources in the future. But now, each municipality can decide, separately, which of those regulations to impose and when – that is creating a patchwork of rules from one city to the next, adding confusion, costs and uncertainty around future investments in the province for our members,” Chera said.

Adds Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy: “Municipal governments have imposed Zero Carbon Step Code and similar regulations on their communities years before provincial deadlines without understanding the expensive consequences. BC Hydro imported \$500 million in electricity last year – 24% of its total electricity – and this year looks even worse due to snowpack and river levels at their lowest since 1970 – but these municipalities are imposing electricity as the only energy source. That’s not wise.”

Tieleman says that Burden Propane, a local propane business providing service in the Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver, has also recently joined BC CADE.

The BC Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating and Burden Propane are the latest in a growing number of business organizations, labour groups, and companies opposed to the early implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code who have joined BC CADE, whose members now include:

- BC Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating
- Burden Propane
- 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

For More Information

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