



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[New poll shows Vancouver residents](#) want to be able to choose between natural gas/renewable natural gas and electricity for home heating instead of banning natural gas. Vancouver Council is set to vote on reversing gas ban on November 26, say BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy and Greater Vancouver Board of Trade; 59% support choice vs 24% backing ban

VANCOUVER – [A new poll shows](#) that Vancouver residents want choice and oppose an effective ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas imposed by the city previously, as Vancouver Council is set to vote on reversing that ban on Tuesday November 26, say the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, who co-sponsored the polling.

The poll, conducted by national research firm by Leger, found that 59% of respondents supported residents and businesses having a choice of energy in construction of new buildings, while less than half that number, 24%, said the City should use its power to ban renewable natural gas/natural gas as a heating source.

When it comes to their home heating source, Vancouver residents said reliability (78%) and affordability (77%) are very important, while 34% said low in greenhouse gas emissions is very important.

Respondents also said their top priority for Vancouver City Council to address is the cost of living at 36% and housing at 20%. Crime and public safety was the top priority for 15% of respondents, followed by drug addiction and mental health at 11 per cent, core city services like roads, sewer, water and garbage at 7% and climate change at 5%.

Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, said the polling results show that Vancouver City Council should reverse its existing effective ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas in a vote scheduled for Tuesday November 26.

“This poll makes it very clear that Vancouver residents support a choice on how to heat their homes and businesses by a strong more than 2-1 majority over continuing to impose the City’s effective ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas,” Tieleman said. “Our broad-based coalition of business, labour, community and other groups is urging Council to vote to reverse the ban and let Vancouverites make their own wise decisions based on affordability, dependability, not having government impose the decision.”

Bridgitte Anderson, President and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, said the poll also shows that Vancouver businesses and residents want Council to focus more on their priorities to address the cost of living and housing than to limit their choices on energy in their homes and businesses.

“Vancouver businesses are facing substantial challenges dealing with the high cost of living and its impact on their customers, as well as the affordability of housing for their employees – they want Vancouver City Council to focus on those priorities,” Anderson said. “It’s crucial that the City of Vancouver empowers people, businesses, and consumers to choose the energy options that is best for them and lessens the load on their wallets.”

Tieleman said several important factors have changed since Vancouver imposed an effective ban four years ago.

“BC imported \$500 million in electricity from the United States and Alberta last year and this year’s river levels and snowpack are at their lowest levels since 1970,” Tieleman says. “And with the consumer carbon tax likely being removed next year, natural gas prices should drop about 25 per cent, making it even more affordable while BC Hydro rates have yet to include the \$16 billion price tag of the Site C dam project.”

Anderson said the province currently has a deadline of 2030 for transitioning to renewable energy but has allowed municipalities to decide their own timelines for adopting regulations far earlier, something that has let Vancouver and other municipalities impose electric heating only in new construction and created a patchwork quilt of regulations across BC.

“The current situation of regulations by Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and other municipalities years before the provincial deadline has made things very complicated enough for our members and others without unneeded confusing and expensive regulations.”

The vote on whether or not to reverse the effective ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas takes place at Vancouver City Council with a public hearing starting on Tuesday November 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Tieleman, and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade are making presentations to Council, along with other Coalition members and other members of the public. The deadline for comments and requesting to speak to Council is 5 p.m. on Monday November 25.

Leger conducted the online survey of 778 Vancouver residents from November 13-21, 2024. For comparative purposes, a probability sample of 778 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 3.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Since its inception in 1887, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade has been recognized as Pacific Canada's leading business association, engaging members to positively impact public policy at all levels of government and to succeed and prosper in the global economy. With a Membership whose employees comprise one third of B.C.'s workforce, GVBOT is the largest business association between Victoria and Toronto.

The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy represents hundreds of thousands of British Columbians through its Coalition members, which 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

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