



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC call CleanBC Review Report extremely disappointing and would only make new housing and home and business heating costs more expensive if adopted

Call on BC to end patchwork quilt of regulations imposed by municipalities that effectively ban natural gas, reject Report's recommendations

VANCOUVER – Today's CleanBC Review Report is extremely disappointing and will only make new housing and home and business heating costs more expensive if adopted by the provincial government, says the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE] and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business - BC.

The Report urges continuing to allow municipalities to impose early adoption of the Zero Carbon Step Code, which effectively bans renewable natural gas and natural gas in construction of new buildings and creates an expensive patchwork quilt of regulations across British Columbia, says Bill Tieleman, BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy.

"This CleanBC Review Report is extremely disappointing and tone deaf to British Columbians' need for more affordability in new buildings and home and business heating. If adopted by the provincial government, these recommendations would increase, not decrease costs for homeowners and businesses," Tieleman said.

Adds Ryan Mitton, Canadian Federation of Independent Business - BC Legislative Affairs Director: "It would also ban the replacement of all existing natural gas space and water heating equipment sold and installed in residential and businesses by the early 2030s, forcing home and business owners to buy more expensive electric equipment. When condominiums and offices need to replace their heating systems they would have to go to the costliest option instead of high efficiency and lower cost natural gas systems."

"Small businesses are struggling right now, they need choice, not higher costs," Mitton says.

The CleanBC Review Report recommendations have completely ignored BC CADE's submission to the Review Panel and those of other key stakeholders, Tieleman says, including calls to end municipalities' ability to impose Zero Carbon Step Code levels far ahead of BC's planned 2030 deadline – which effectively bans the use of renewable natural gas and natural gas heating systems – and potentially hydrogen in the future – in new buildings.

"BC CADE urges the province to reject this misguided Report and instead directly consult with the homeowners and businesses who would be most negatively impacted by its expensive

recommendations,” Tieleman says. “Let’s instead of adopting this Report, find ways to make building new homes and owning homes and businesses in BC more affordable, not less.”

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Background

The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE] is a coalition bringing together businesses, business organizations, labour unions, and others to support choice on affordable, dependable energy. Coalition members include:

- BC Chamber of Commerce
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC Branch
- Surrey Board of Trade
- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
- Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada
- BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association
- Restaurants Canada
- BC Craft Brewers Guild
- BC Asian Restaurant Cafe Owners Association
- International Union of Electrical Workers Local 213
- UA Local 170
- BC Building Trades
- Mott Electric
- Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating
- The Limona Group
- South Asian Business Association
- Northwest Stoves
- Align West Homes
- Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC
- Concorde Distributing
- Jackson Grills
- Ready Propane
- Napoleon Grills & Fireplaces
- Continental Fireplaces & HVAC
- Valor Radiant Gas Fireplaces
- Pioneer Fireplace
- Maxquip
- Regency Fireplace Products

- Heat Savers
- Burden Propane
- Urban Fireplaces
- Quadra Homes
- Isle of Mann Property Group

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business advocates for thousands of small businesses with politicians and decision-makers at all three levels of government (municipal, provincial, and federal). As a non-partisan organization, we influence public policy based on our members' views.