



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy supports Vancouver motion on choice and affordability by repealing natural gas water heater replacement ban by-law, review housing policies based on affordability issues to lower costs for homeowners, renters and small businesses**

*Homeowners and strata condo buildings will save tens of thousands of dollars annually*

**VANCOUVER** – The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE] is strongly supporting the City of Vancouver’s motion to repeal a bylaw banning replacement of natural gas water heating equipment and review other City measures based on affordability issues to lower the costs for homeowners, renters and small businesses.

The motion, proposed by Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim, will be discussed and voted on at the May 20 Council meeting of the Standing Committee on City Finances and Services.

“This is one of the most important motions on housing affordability and reducing costs for homeowners, renters and small businesses that Council has seen in this term of office – and it’s critical that it be passed,” says Bill Tieleman, Director of the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, one of BC’s largest coalitions, representing over 300,000 people through its business, labour and community members.

“The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy believes that, if passed, it will save tens of thousands of homeowners and renters literally thousands of dollars per home in the years ahead simply by allowing choice when existing natural gas water heaters need to be replaced, instead of imposing electric-only water heaters,” Tieleman said.

“And the other measures proposed – pausing the Energize Vancouver program and ending the expensive and ineffective imposition of regulations forcing strata condominiums to produce annual reports on their use of energy – will also save thousands of dollars for every strata condominium building across the city,” Tieleman said.

“It’s a welcome recognition that the world has changed and that affordability must be the priority for every level of government. That’s the big reason why the British Columbia and federal governments both eliminated the consumer carbon tax – to save people

money they need in difficult economic times,” Tieleman added.

The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy has long advocated ending the patchwork quilt of energy regulations across the province, where each municipality can have different bylaws and rules that in many cases effectively ban renewable natural gas and natural gas heating in all new construction, for both homes and businesses, through early adoption of the provincial Zero Carbon Step Code.

“This proposed Vancouver by-law would sensibly align the city’s regulations and policies with those of the province, using an affordability lens to ensure they do not unnecessarily add to the cost of building needed housing and businesses,” Tieleman said. “Reducing costs, delays and duplication will all help reduce new construction and ongoing operational costs for homeowners and businesses alike.”

Tieleman said measures passed by previous Vancouver councils have added significant and unnecessary additional costs to housing in Canada’s most expensive city, making it even less affordable.

“The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy applauds Mayor Sim’s motion and notes that the proposed changes allow choice for homeowners and businesses on housing and energy issues,” Tieleman said. “We believe in the wisdom of Vancouver residents to make the choices that are best for them and their own situation, not government imposing regulations that create additional costs without benefits for families or small businesses.”

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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
- Patriot Homes