



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday October 13, 2026

BC's largest coalition – representing over 300,000 British Columbians – the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy, reminds its members this municipal election it's important to vote for Mayors and Councillors who will support the use of natural gas and renewable natural gas in new residential and business construction

BC CADE members oppose early municipal adoption of Zero Carbon Step Code regulations

VANCOUVER – The BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy [BC CADE] is reminding its organizational members – representing over 300,000 British Columbians – that it's important to vote in the October 17 municipal elections for candidates who support the use of natural and renewable natural gas in new residential and business construction.

BC CADE has dozens of members from business, labour and community organizations across the province who all agree that the early adoption by municipalities of the provincial Zero Carbon Step Code is effectively banning affordable, dependable natural gas and renewable natural gas in new construction.

Director Bill Tieleman says the BC Coalition for Affordable Dependable Energy has been advocating since 2024 to eliminate the patchwork quilt of energy regulations across the province adopted by over 30 municipalities.

“Early municipal adoption of the provincial Zero Carbon Step Code makes building and heating BC homes and businesses unnecessarily more expensive at a time when affordability is critical,” Tieleman says. “It costs more to build and operate with electricity only when BC has a century’s worth of natural gas and renewable natural gas and is expanding Liquefied Natural Gas plants and exports to the world.”

“Why are municipalities even allowed to regulate energy and construction?” asks Tieleman. “The province and federal governments have the jurisdiction, expert staff and resources to deal with these important issues – municipalities simply do not.”

Tieleman noted that recently both Vancouver and North Cowichan municipal councils have taken positive steps to reverse the bans on natural gas, noting that both councils recognize the energy, political and economic landscape has changed dramatically.

Tieleman says multiple factors make effectively banning natural gas in new construction at the municipal level unaffordable and unnecessary:

- Energy self-security at a time of the trade war with the U.S. is critical;
- When BC has a 100-year supply of natural gas and is developing more renewable natural gas;
- When BC Hydro has imported over \$2 billion net in electricity from the United States and Alberta - 25% of BC's total usage;
- When BC Hydro rates have gone up and natural gas prices have gone down with the elimination of federal and provincial consumer carbon taxes; and
- When B.C. depends on natural gas heat during both extreme cold and heat periods;
- When major changes in energy policy, Canadian and world politics have already happened rapidly and the Zero Carbon Step Code implementation date of 2030 could change at any time.

Tieleman said the question that BC CADE members are saying their employees, union members and others should ask candidates for Mayor and Councillor before voting is:

“Do you support protecting energy choice, affordability and dependability for families and businesses by pledging to not vote for banning natural gas through the early implementation of the Zero Carbon Step Code – or to vote to repeal the Code where already adopted? Yes or No?”

Tieleman said the votes of BC CADE members' who represent over 300,000 British Columbians could be critical in this municipal election.

For More Information: Bill Tieleman, BC CADE Director/West Star Communications at cell: 778-896-0964; office: 604-844-7827; email: weststar@telus.net

Website municipal election flyer at:

<https://bccade.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/BCCADE-September2026-Municipal-Election-Flyer-v02-20261006-WEB.pdf>

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:

- Canadian Federation of Independent Business – BC Branch
- BC Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
- Surrey Board of Trade
- BC Restaurant and Foodservices Association
- Restaurants Canada

- Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of 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