



November 21, 2024

To: Mayor Sim

ken.sim@vancouver.ca

Dear Mayor Sim and Members of Vancouver City Council,

On behalf of the Canadian Propane Association (CPA), I am writing to express our strong support for Vancouver City Council's consideration to reverse the ban on renewable natural gas and natural gas in new construction. We urge the Council to restore energy choice for both consumers and builders, providing a balanced approach to meeting Vancouver's environmental goals while supporting affordability and reliability for customers and businesses.

In 2019, Vancouver's previous Council imposed a ban on natural gas in new construction. This restriction has limited the energy options available to residents and businesses, mandating electricity as the sole option in new buildings. While we understand the critical need to reduce emissions, the CPA firmly believes that such goals can be achieved without sacrificing consumer choice or financial accessibility. Energy sources such as natural gas and propane—including renewable propane and renewable DME in the future—offer a cleaner, lower-emission option for heating and cooking, which aligns with the city's environmental objectives while maintaining consumer choice.

The CPA believes that Vancouver residents and businesses should be empowered to make informed decisions regarding their energy needs. By allowing a choice among energy sources, including propane and natural gas, the Council can foster a more inclusive approach to energy management. Different energy sources serve unique needs, and propane plays a valuable role in British Columbia's energy ecosystem. It is a lower-emission, cost-effective, and reliable energy source that can be crucial for communities with limited access to other energy infrastructure or for residents seeking alternatives that align with their specific circumstances. Propane helps keep energy costs manageable and increases overall energy security by diversifying the available options.

The CPA has 27 member companies who own and operate propane businesses in Vancouver and these companies have been providing energy to hundreds of homes and businesses in and around the city for decades. Propane supports countless industries, from construction and manufacturing to agriculture and hospitality, ensuring they have access to dependable energy to power operations year-round. For homeowners, propane is an affordable solution for heating, cooking, and backup power during outages, making it invaluable in maintaining comfort and safety.

Furthermore, allowing a broader range of energy sources in Vancouver's new buildings can help reduce pressure on the electrical grid, which faces growing demand as the city's population continues to expand. Diversifying energy sources rather than restricting them would improve the dependability of Vancouver's energy system and allow consumers to access cost-competitive energy.

In summary, we urge Vancouver City Council to prioritize consumer choice, affordability, and reliability by reversing the current restrictions on natural gas in new construction. By doing so, the Council can uphold its environmental commitments while empowering its residents and businesses to make choices that best serve their needs. Propane and other low-emission fuels are essential to British Columbia's energy mix, and we encourage the Council to recognize their importance in creating a sustainable, diverse, and resilient energy future for Vancouver.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to a balanced, future-focused energy policy for Vancouver. The CPA stands ready to support the Council in crafting solutions that benefit all Vancouverites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Kachur', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katie Kachur
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