

# B.2

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 2. The City of Vancouver's Commitment to Natural Gas as an Affordable Energy Source

MOVER: Councillor De Genova

SECONDER: Councillor Ball

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Zero Emissions Building Plan that was presented by staff to Council on July 12, 2016, states that "The City's Renewable City Strategy target is to have all buildings in Vancouver (including those already built) use only renewable energy by the year 2050." The report outlines that this strategy expects 30% would be built prior to 2010, 30% would be built between 2010 and 2020, and 40% would be built after 2020 and before 2050;
2. Despite the City of Vancouver website stating that the City is not banning natural gas, the website also states "Our city has what it takes to successfully get 100% of our energy from renewable sources before 2050."
3. On November 30, 2016 the motion titled "Commitment to Affordable Energy in the City of Vancouver" was brought to Council, asking the City of Vancouver to affirm support for natural gas as an affordable source of energy. The motion was defeated;
4. Hundreds of thousands of people in the City of Vancouver rely on natural gas as a utility to heat their households, fuel their stoves, barbeques and businesses;
5. Fortis BC has stated, in Council, that they do not have enough supply of renewable natural gas available to serve all of City of Vancouver; and furthermore that it would require the same infrastructure as delivers natural gas;
6. The regulations that came into effect on May 1, 2017 under the new building code do not encourage the use of natural gas;
7. Vancouver's energy needs have become an issue in the BC provincial election, with one party making a platform statement that they will "protect the ability of homeowners and businesses to use natural gas as an energy source across the province." This party has said that if elected again as a government they will change the Vancouver Charter and repeal the new regulations on natural gas in the Vancouver Building Code.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff report back to Council within 30 days outlining how the Zero Emissions 2050 plan will affect the use of natural gas as a choice in new buildings and homes in Vancouver.
- B. THAT staff prepare recommendations to amend the Green Buildings Rezoning Policy and Vancouver Building Code to accept natural gas as an option for affordable energy.

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