



Mechanical Contractors Association  
of British Columbia

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Honourable Bruce Ralston  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Distributed via Email: [empr.minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:empr.minister@gov.bc.ca)

**SUBJECT: Timeline for elimination of Fortis BC rebates for gas powered appliances**

Minister Ralston,

I write to you on behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of British Columbia (MCABC), representing members in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I), high rise, multi-family and residential sectors. Mechanical contractors comprise construction's 10 core trades – plumbers, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanics, boilermakers, gas fitters, sheet metal workers, welders, insulation and sprinkler technicians, instrumentation and control technicians – whose technical expertise enables the delivery of clean air, clean water and comfort for British Columbians. Mechanical Contractors are part of the fabric and infrastructure of every community in B.C.

MCABC, a 117-year-old Association, is the dedicated voice for mechanical contractors in BC. Its members own, and work for, large and medium-sized organizations and small family businesses, both union and open shop employers. The industry is bound by its people and their unwavering commitment to supporting their families and caring for their communities. They are essential to the infrastructure of BC.

We learned late yesterday afternoon of an effort underway to eliminate, effective 2024, the Fortis BC rebates for gas powered appliances. The timeline proposed provides limited opportunity for our members to prepare for the transition. On behalf of our members, MCABC is requesting that the proposed timeline for elimination of the rebates be stretched to be effective in 2026, allowing for reasonable time for the mechanical contracting trades to train and prepare for the effort towards net zero emissions.

MCABC is leading the industry dialogue on climate action – our members support electrification and acknowledge that mechanical contractors are instrumental in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In collaboration with stakeholders, MCABC is focused on strengthening our industry’s knowledge and scope of influence so the transition from gas to electricity evolves in alignment with the provincial, regional and local targets. Why, during this time of ongoing industry learnings and adoption, would we want to threaten our members’ sustainability with a one-year timeline versus introduce a well-planned and phased approach that aligns with the targets to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions?

As you know, the Fortis BC high efficiency gas rebates currently bridge the gap necessary to evolve customers from conventional to more highly- efficient solutions that also contribute significantly to the lowering of green house gas emissions. Eliminating this option within such a short timeframe has a potentially detrimental impact on customers who are considering a change and to our members whose livelihoods are dependent on providing service, maintenance and retrofits to the built infrastructure in BC.

Our members, primarily small and medium-sized businesses, are balancing the demands of an industry significantly impacted by labour and supply chain shortages while adapting to the accelerated timeline related to climate action. Their business planning cycles, not unlike others, run a course of 3-5 years; elimination of the Fortis BC high efficiency gas rebates after only one year imposes immeasurable pressure on an industry that is already at full capacity.

MCABC remains committed to leading the transition.

Sincerely,  
Kim Barbero  
CEO  
Mechanical Contractors Association of British Columbia

cc:

Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Steven Groves, Senior Policy Advisor, BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Les Maclaren, Assistant Deputy Minister for Electricity and Alternative Energy Division