

**November 12, 2025**

**Mayor and Council**

City of Vancouver  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

**Re: Protecting Vancouver's Commitment to Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Housing**

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

On behalf of the **Canadian Association of Energy Advisors (CACEA)** and our network of licensed Energy Advisors working across Vancouver and British Columbia, we are writing to express our concern regarding potential budget cuts to the City's **Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability departments**—particularly any reductions in funding that could impact **energy efficiency requirements for new and existing residential buildings**.

The City of Vancouver (the City) has long been recognized as a national and global leader in sustainable city-building. The **Greenest City Action Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan**, and the **Zero Emissions Building Plan** have positioned the City at the forefront of climate leadership, demonstrating how progressive policy can drive meaningful reductions in building emissions while improving occupant comfort and health. These programs are not abstract ambitions—they rely on careful planning, technical oversight, and dedicated staff capacity within the City's sustainability and building departments to ensure new and existing homes meet energy performance standards.

Energy efficiency in buildings plays a **critical role** in reducing operational carbon emissions. Buildings account for 57% of Vancouver's carbon pollution<sup>1</sup>; by maintaining and strengthening programs that prioritize building envelope performance, mechanical efficiency, and airtightness, the City directly supports its climate goals while fostering a more comfortable and resilient housing stock.

Moreover, energy-efficient homes offer significant **benefits to residents**. They provide better indoor comfort, improved air quality, and reduced exposure to drafts or temperature swings—all while lowering household energy costs. As housing affordability remains a pressing issue in Vancouver, maintaining strong efficiency standards helps protect

1. City of Vancouver Council Report, Climate Emergency – Bylaw and Policy Updates Applicable to New Buildings (May 5, 2022). <https://council.vancouver.ca/20220517/documents/R1a.pdf>

residents from rising utility bills and ensures that energy performance is not treated as a luxury, but as a baseline expectation for livable, sustainable housing.

CACEA members—including licensed Energy Advisors under Natural Resources Canada—are proud to work closely with builders, renovators, homeowners, and municipalities to deliver these outcomes. Our members provide the technical expertise and third-party verification that ensure buildings perform as intended. The progress made to date under Vancouver’s energy and sustainability programs is a direct result of this collaboration between City staff, policy makers, and energy professionals.

We understand that the City faces difficult fiscal choices, but we strongly urge Council to **protect and maintain funding** for energy efficiency programs and the staff who deliver them. Scaling back these investments would not only slow progress toward Vancouver’s climate and housing goals, but could also erode the **exemplary leadership** position the City has built through years of innovative, evidence-based policy.

We encourage Council to view these programs not as expenses, but as **strategic investments**—investments that yield long-term savings, create skilled local employment, and enhance the livability and resilience of the community.

CACEA and its members remain committed to supporting the City’s sustainability objectives and stand ready to collaborate on pathways that ensure Vancouver continues to be a model for energy-efficient, low-carbon development across Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership in advancing a sustainable future for all Vancouverites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cindy Gareau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

**Cindy Gareau**

Executive Director

**Canadian Association of Energy Advisors (CACEA)**

[manager@cacea.ca](mailto:manager@cacea.ca)