November 27, 2026

The Honourable Larry Neufeld
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Email: ECS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Reducing Electricity Demand and Strengthening Reliability: An Offer from BC's Energy Advisors

Dear Minister Neufeld,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Consulting Energy Advisors (CACEA), our BC membership and the Energy Advisors working throughout the province, congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Founded in 2017, CACEA is the national voice for Energy Advisors, who improve the energy efficiency, resilience and comfort of new and existing homes, and serves as a trusted resource for homeowners, industry partners and policymakers.

Your mandate directs you to add reliable, cost-effective power to meet growing demand and to make reliability an explicit provincial energy objective. Alongside new supply, each reduction in residential peak demand lowers the capacity the system must build, purchase or connect. **We respectfully ask that your government:** (1) recognize efficient homes as a low-cost contributor to grid reliability; (2) keep Energy Advisor evaluations at the centre of residential energy programs, with their cost eligible for program incentives; and (3) draw on Energy Advisors' expertise as you plan for growing residential demand.

Energy Advisors are impartial, federally registered Part 9 residential building professionals, trained in building science and in assessing the house as a system. They model, test and evaluate new and existing homes to help builders, renovators and homeowners choose the envelope, equipment and systems best suited to each project. Their work is fuel-neutral, helping British Columbians make the most of natural gas, electricity or both, consistent with your mandate to protect access to natural gas connections and heating choices.

Energy Advisors support grid reliability in four ways:

1. **Right-sized equipment lowers peak load.** Oversized heating and cooling equipment is common and increases demand on the coldest and hottest days of the year, when the system is under the greatest strain. In one recent Kelowna home, a furnace rated at 56,700 BTU/h was installed to meet a heat loss of 10,970 BTU/h, approximately five times the required capacity. Many Energy Advisors are qualified to complete heat loss and heat gain calculations, that match equipment to the home.
2. **Better-built homes stay comfortable through extremes.** Airtight, well-insulated homes retain heat during cold snaps and stay cooler during heat waves, so they require less

power during peak periods. Energy Advisors guide these improvements and verify them through airtightness testing.

3. **Existing homes offer the largest opportunity.** Older homes make up most of BC's housing stock and use the most energy. Upgrade order matters: improving airtightness and insulation first reduces the heating and cooling equipment a home needs, lowering upfront cost and grid demand. The BC Home Energy Planner is a helpful first step, but only an on-site Energy Advisor evaluation can measure air leakage, identify the best-value upgrades and confirm the savings. Pairing the Planner with Energy Advisor evaluations would help homeowners make the right choices.
4. **Measured results, not estimates.** Every Energy Advisor EnerGuide evaluation produces measured, standardized data, giving government and utilities a reliable way to measure results and confirm value for money, as your mandate letter asks.

The result is lower bills and more resilient homes for families, practical solutions for builders, and less pressure on the grid.

CACEA members have modelled, tested and reported on tens of thousands of BC homes and already work with BC Hydro on residential energy programs. We also support training on sizing and installing electric heating and cooling to limit new peak demand. Specifically, CACEA offers:

- a briefing for your ministry and BC Hydro on how efficiency and right-sized equipment affect peak demand;
- BC field data and case examples from member projects; and
- experienced Energy Advisors to support demand forecasting and program planning.

We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you and your team in the coming months. CACEA will follow up in the coming weeks to arrange a meeting. In the meantime, please contact Cindy Gareau at manager@cacea.ca or 888-315-2774.

Respectfully,

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cc: The Honourable Cathie Ounsted, Minister of Local Government, Housing, Sport and Culture; The Honourable Zeeshan Wahla, Minister of State for Housing; The Honourable Gavin Dew, MLA for Kelowna-Mission; CACEA Board of Directors