

NEWS RELEASE
October 23, 2017

UPLIFTING THE COMMUNITY BY TURNING DOWN THE HEAT

*FortisBC and the Business Improvement Areas of B.C. begin Turn Down the Heat Week
November 4 - 10*

(Vancouver, British Columbia) - The Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia (BIABC), in collaboration with FortisBC, are providing warmth to communities across the province this November. Turn Down the Heat Week runs from November 4 – 10, 2017 and encourages residents and businesses alike to reduce their energy consumption by turning down the heat, donning a comfy sweater and providing for those in need.

This year close to 20 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) from across Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island, and the Okanagan are dialing down their thermostats to bring awareness to this important issue. Residents in participating areas (see full list of participating BIAs below) are invited to show their support by bundling up in their cosiest sweaters and donating warm clothing for local charities at participating BIAs. Retailers involved in this year's Turn Down the Heat Week are putting their own stamp on the campaign with each business encouraging donations by offering discounts, snacks or energy-saving tips to customers.

"We are thrilled that BIABC is working alongside FortisBC on this initiative again. Being energy efficient is important to our members, our community and the environment. Together it's the little things, like turning down the thermostat, that can make a huge difference," says BIABC president Kendra Johnston. "We're fortunate to have FortisBC support this partnership. They are as committed to global stewardship as we are. When we all work together, our efforts make a significant impact for change." In 2016, 400 businesses representing 14 BIAs collected more than 2,500 sweaters and warm pieces of clothing to donate to families in need.

"Being aware of energy use and using it efficiently is good for business. It can reduce costs and preserve resources," said Danielle Wensink, FortisBC's director, conservation and energy management. "Turn Down the Heat Week highlights the small changes businesses and residents can make that together have a big impact, all while supporting worthwhile community causes. It's a win-win for everyone and we're proud to be a part of it."

FortisBC supports businesses year-round with hands-on advice and a range of rebates and programs to help them save energy and reduce space and water heating costs. In fact, last year, FortisBC provided business customers with \$8.5 million in natural gas incentives and \$1.2 million in electricity incentives. These upgrades will continue to pay customers back in lower energy use for years to come.

More information about Turn Down the Heat Week, including participating BIAs, can be found at bia.bc.ca/turndowntheheatweek, via BIABC's Facebook page or Twitter account or by following the hashtag #turndowntheheatweek.

About BIABC

BIABC champions strong, vibrant and successful downtowns, main streets and commercial districts throughout British Columbia. BIABC represents 60 BIAs and 60,000 businesses throughout B.C. bia.bc.ca

About FortisBC

FortisBC is a regulated utility focused on providing safe and reliable energy, including natural gas, electricity and propane. FortisBC employs more than 2,200 British Columbians and serves approximately 1.1 million customers in 135 B.C. communities. FortisBC owns and operates two liquefied natural gas storage facilities and four regulated hydroelectric generating plants, approximately 7,200 kilometres of transmission and distribution power lines and approximately 48,200 kilometres of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines. FortisBC Inc. and FortisBC Energy Inc. do business as FortisBC. FortisBC is indirectly, wholly owned by Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American electricity and gas utility business. Fortis Inc. shares are listed on the TSX and NYSE and trade under the symbol FTS. Additional information can be accessed at fortisinc.com or sedar.com.

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER:

The following BIAs will be participating in the 2017 *Turn Down the Heat Week* in their communities November 4 – 10, 2017.

2017 Participating BIAs and charities for warm clothing donations to date:

BIA	Charity name
Downtown Vancouver Area	
Cambie Village	Kitsilano Community Policing Centre
Collingwood BIA	Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Point Grey Village BIA	Covenant House
Strathcona BIA	First United Church
South Hill BIA	Coast Mental Health
Vancouver, Coast and Mountains Region	
Downtown Chilliwack BIA	Salvation Army
Downtown Port Coquitlam	New View Society
Downtown Squamish BIA	Helping Hands
Sechelt Downtown Business Association	Salvation Army
Thompson Okanagan	
Downtown Kelowna Association	Kelowna Gospel Mission
Downtown Penticton Association	Salvation Army
Kamloops Central BIA	Canadian Mental Health Association
South Quesnel BIA	SPCA and Salvation Army
West Quesnel BIA	SPCA and Salvation Army
Vancouver Island	
Comox BIA	Comox Valley Transition Society
Downtown Courtenay BIA	Comox Valley Transition Society
Downtown Victoria BIA	Cool Aid Society