

NEWS RELEASE

November 16, 2017

B.C. COMMUNITIES BUNDLED UP FOR TURN DOWN THE HEAT WEEK

*Annual challenge saw communities across B.C. conserving energy and collecting warm clothing for charity
#turndowntheheatweek*

(Vancouver, British Columbia) – The results are in! This year’s Turn Down the Heat Week campaign resulted in more than 4000 businesses across the province turning down the thermostat to save energy, while collecting a mammoth 2200 items of warm clothing for local charities.

The annual campaign ran from November 4 to 10 and was a joint initiative between Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia (BIABC) and FortisBC, which encouraged B.C. businesses and their customers to turn down the heat and donate warm clothing to those in need. Nearly 20 B.C. business improvement areas (BIAs) took part this year, spanning the province including communities on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast, and in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and Thompson-Okanagan.

“We are thrilled with the results of this year’s campaign. Once again we see that Turn Down the Heat Week proved to be a great opportunity to rally the community together for a good cause. Local businesses were able to give back by collecting donations for charities across the province and share the important message of energy conservation,” said Kendra Johnson, president, BIABC. “We are truly grateful for FortisBC’s continued support through providing energy saving tips and rebates for businesses as well as resources for the campaign. Without them, we wouldn’t be able to encourage businesses and consumers to get serious about saving energy in the same way.”

Participating BIAs and their member businesses encouraged their customers, fellow businesses and municipalities to turn down the thermostat. Many found creative ways to raise awareness of energy conservation. Some businesses held sales of winter apparel and hot drinks, and some even provided incentives of hot chocolate, coffee and gifts in exchange for sweater donations.

“We appreciate the Business Improvement Areas of B.C. for bringing attention to saving energy through this annual campaign as well as helping those in need,” said Danielle Wensink, director, conservation and energy management, FortisBC. “We look forward to continuing this momentum through our many programs and initiatives that help businesses manage their energy use throughout the year.”

FortisBC offers a range of resources for businesses to help them save energy and cut down on heating and hot water costs. Along with a wide range of [energy-saving tips](#), FortisBC also has a [robust rebate program](#) for business owners to take advantage of when upgrading their premises, or retrofitting to improve energy efficiency. [Tips and rebates are also available for home customers](#) interested in conserving energy.

Both BIABC and FortisBC are pleased with the results of the campaign as well as the community involvement. The partners look forward to building on this event again in 2018.

About Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia

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.

2017 Participating BIAs and their local charitable recipient agencies:

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

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Access high resolution images from "Turn Down the Heat Week" [here](#).