

NEWS RELEASE
October 14, 2016

TURN DOWN THE HEAT WEEK HAS BC BUSINESSES SAVING ENERGY

*Across the province, BIA members promote energy conservation & collect warm clothing
for local charities, October 23 – 29
#turndowntheheatweek*

(Vancouver, British Columbia) – From October 23 to 29, shoppers across British Columbia might get a chillier welcome than they're used to at their local stores. The customer service won't have changed, but from Kelowna to Sechelt, and Point Grey to Nanaimo, local businesses in 16 business improvement areas (BIAs) in the province will be turning down their thermostats for Turn Down the Heat Week.

As an initiative of Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia (BIABC) in partnership with FortisBC, the goal of Turn Down the Heat Week is to encourage businesses and their customers to don a sweater and save energy. Each BIA will also have its participating members collect warm clothing that will be donated to a local charity. Each business approaches the campaign a little differently, with some offering discounts on warm clothing or hot beverages, or perhaps giving out tips on saving energy at home.

"Turn Down the Heat Week allows participating BIAs to change their own habits to save energy, but also to give back to their communities," says Corry Hostetter, president of BCBCIA. "Local business owners are connecting with those who live in their area every day, and are able to share their enthusiasm and knowledge about saving energy by making small changes like putting on a sweater. We're very fortunate to have the support of FortisBC to create this grassroots conservation campaign across BC, in communities large and small."

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.

"Turn Down the Heat Week shows a real commitment to saving energy and we're glad to be a part of it," says Danielle Wensink, director, conservation and energy management, FortisBC. "We encourage all businesses to consider how they use energy every day for heating, water and even cooking and pledge to take at least one or two simple steps to save where it counts the most for their operation."

Turn Down the Heat Week is in its fourth year. Previously the campaign was held in February each year, but the decision was made to move it to October at the start of the cold season. "Fall is when most of us turn on the thermostat, so moving the campaign to October means we can help people set up good habits when the temperature first begins to drop," says Hostetter.

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 Business Improvement Areas of British Columbia

The 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. www.bia.bc.ca

About FortisBC

FortisBC is a regulated utility focused on providing safe and reliable energy, including natural gas, electricity, propane and thermal energy solutions. FortisBC employs more than 2,200 British Columbians and serves approximately 1.1 million customers in more than 135 B.C. communities. FortisBC is indirectly wholly owned by Fortis Inc., the largest investor-owned distribution utility in Canada. FortisBC owns and operates four regulated hydroelectric generating plants, approximately 7,000 kilometres of transmission and distribution power lines, and approximately 47,000 kilometres of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines. FortisBC Inc., FortisBC Energy Inc., FortisBC Energy (Vancouver Island) Inc., and FortisBC Energy (Whistler) Inc. do business as FortisBC. Fortis Inc. shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and trade under the symbol FTS. Additional information can be accessed at www.fortisinc.com or www.sedar.com.

2016 Turn Down the Heat Week Participating BIAs and Charities for Warm Clothing Donations

Business Improvement Area	Charity Name
Cambie Village Business Association	Kitsilano Fairview Community Policing Centre
Collingwood BIA	Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Kamloops Central BIA	Canadian Mental Health Association, Kamloops Branch
Downtown Kelowna Association	Kelowna Gospel Mission
Downtown Maple Ridge BIA	The Hive Neighbourhood Centre and Salvation Army
Downtown Nanaimo BIA	Nanaimo Men's and Women's Resource Centres
Downtown New Westminster BIA	The Lookout
Point Grey Village BIA	Salvation Army
Sechelt Downtown Business Association	Salvation Army
Downtown Squamish BIA	Howe Sound Women's Centre Society
Uptown Rutland BIA	Salvation Army
Downtown Vernon Association	Canadian Mental Health Association, Vernon and District
West Quesnel Business Association	Seasons House
Downtown Victoria Business Association	Victoria Cool Aid Society
Downtown Courtenay BIA	Comox Valley Transition Society
Dunbar Village Business Association	TBC

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