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www.bcuc.com**British Columbia
Utilities Commission**

Letter of Comment

In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to submit a letter of comment concerning an application currently before the Commission, please provide a completed form to commission.secretary@bcuc.com. If email is unavailable, please mail the form to the address above. By doing so, you acknowledge that all letters of comment are published with the author's name as part of the public evidentiary record, both in print copy and on the Commission's website. All personal contact information provided on this page is removed before posting to the website. Forms must be received by the Commission by the last filing date included in the proceeding's regulatory timetable before final arguments.

Proceeding name

Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party?

Name (first and last)

City

Province

Email

Phone number

Letter of Comment

Name (first and last)

Sonya MacKinnon

Date:

14-Aug-16

Comment: Please specify the reasons for your interest in the proceeding, your views concerning the proceeding, any relevant information that supports or explains your views, the conclusion you support and any recommendations. The Commission may disallow comments that do not comply with the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

When Fortis first announced they were considering this two-tiered system they asked for input. I immediately wrote them and asked if there was going to be some kind of grandfather clause for users like us who were without access to natural gas at the time we invested in our heating system and that now it would be far too costly to change that system and hook up to natural gas. Of course there was no reply.

In the past three years, in order to try to reduce the exorbitant hydro bills we took Fortis' advice and upgraded our furnaces etc. in order to be more efficient consumers. We installed a new furnace, heat pump, air conditioner and hot water tank but our hydro bills just keep increasing . There are only two of us (average age 80) living here who close off all the heat in all bedrooms but one upstairs so the furnace is only heating one bedroom and one bathroom. We keep the temperature during the day at 20C and 16C at night but nothing we do is helping to lower our hydro bill and it always feels cold. Our bill from January 15 to March 15 last winter was \$1,186.00. We also burn at least a cord of firewood in our fireplace during the evenings in winter to try to gain a little more warmth. Not the best thing environmentally and it's also another cost to us having to pay \$250 per cord for wood.

According to the Government, the major rationale for introducing the two-tier pricing system is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, if we paid the huge costs to change our entire heating system and hook-up to natural gas now that it's available to us, we would only be increasing greenhouse gas emissions. So, the two-tier pricing system, as designed, is actually damaging to the Government's ability to meet its climate change objectives. It needs to be replaced, immediately, with a different pricing system, that doesn't discriminate against those of us who use electricity to heat our homes and hot water.