

**Date Submitted:** February 04, 2020

**Proceeding name:** FEI Revelstoke Propane Portfolio Cost Amalgamation Application

**Are you currently registered as an intervener or interested party:** No

**Name (first and last):** Elizabeth Boulton

**City:** Revelstoke

**Province:** British Columbia

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Phone number:** [REDACTED]

**Comment:**

I am a new resident in Revelstoke. Please see attached letter.

1/29/20

FortisBC Energy Inc  
16705 Fraser Highway  
Surrey, BC V4N 0E8  
gas.customerservice@fortisbc.com

[British Columbia Utilities Commission](#)

Suite 410, 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6Z 2N3  
Commission.secretary@bcuc.com

Dear Fortis and BCUC,

I recently built a home in Revelstoke, BC. Originally, I wanted to build a passive home, but could not afford the price of building passively. I compromised by building ICF with triple glazed windows and doors and the same passive window design. I chose a GF 200 NTI (natural gas/propane) combo furnace with hot water on demand. I am retired. So, I tried to balance my budget with energy conscious sustainable heating, cooking and hot water in an alpine environment.

I have been following the pricing controversy between natural gas in British Columbia and propane pricing in Revelstoke. Since natural gas is not an option in Revelstoke, I enthusiastically support lowering the price of propane to match the price of natural gas.

I do not support the Mayor of Revelstoke's position that the price of propane should not be lowered because it will negatively impact Revelstoke Community Energy Corporation, which is a conflict of interest, since he sits on the RCEC Board. **(City of Revelstoke company owes millions, Revelstoke Review November 20,2019)**

The Revelstoke Review routinely publishes articles discussing the affordability crisis in Revelstoke. I do not understand why not supporting Fortis's proposal to decrease the cost of propane is in the best interest of the citizens of Revelstoke. It may be in the best interest of a failing business venture, but it is not in the best interest of the residents in Revelstoke who depend on propane for heating, cooking and hot water.

Some people criticize the environmental impact of using propane. However, the cost of electricity is so astronomical in Revelstoke, most residents with electric heating use a wood burning stove. I think well intentioned individuals forget the health and environmental impacts of burning wood. Current Problems Pediatric Adolescent Health Care published an article in June 2017, **Wood Stove Pollution in the Developed World: A Case to Raise Awareness Among Pediatricians**. They state in their abstract, "Although wood stoves reduce heating costs, wood smoke may adversely impact child health through the emission of gaseous and particulate air pollutants. Our purpose is to raise awareness of this environmental health issue among pediatricians." (Rokoff LB, Koutrakis P, Garshick E, et al. Wood Stove Pollution in the

Developed World: A Case to Raise Awareness Among Pediatricians. *Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care*. 2017;47(6):123–141. doi:10.1016/j.cppeds.2017.04.001) I am 64 years old and sensitive to wood smoke. When renting on Third Street in Revelstoke, while building my house, several nights I had difficulty both breathing and sleeping because of the thick smoke from wood stoves.

Not only have propane rates not decreased in Revelstoke, but also, propane rates have increased 12%. “Currently, the price of natural gas is \$1.54 per GJ, which Sorace said is among the lowest its ever been. With next year’s price increase, propane in Revelstoke will be more than \$11 per GJ.” **(Revelstoke’s energy bills go up, elsewhere heating prices drop, Revelstoke Review, December 5, 2019)** Propane in Revelstoke is currently priced over 7 times the price of natural gas, which is not an option for residents of Revelstoke. With one of the highest costs of living in British Columbia, why should residents of Revelstoke be further punished economically when Fortis is willing to decrease the cost of propane?

I respectfully ask the BCUC to bring the price of propane in line (comparable) to the price of natural gas in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Boulton

[REDACTED]

Revelstoke, British Columbia

[REDACTED]