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June 6, 2024

Meghan Lahti  
Mayor, City of Port Moody  
City Hall  
100 Newport Drive  
Port Moody, BC V3H 5C3

Dear Mayor Lahti,

I am writing to convey Vancity's support of the Climate Action Committee's recommendation to implement the Zero Carbon Step Code (ZCSC) at Emissions Level-4 (EL-4) for new construction of residential and commercial buildings in the City of Port Moody beginning January 1, 2025.

As Canada's largest community-based credit union, Vancity is doing its part to help protect people and the planet. We have committed to bringing emissions across all our mortgages and loans to net-zero by 2040 and we will be working to decarbonize our own offices—including our Port Moody community branch. The ZCSC helps us realize this goal by locking in zero-emissions for newly constructed homes and commercial buildings we finance in the communities we serve.

The buildings sector is the third largest source of carbon emissions in British Columbia. Electrification of new buildings, as required by the ZCSC, is a critical step to reduce emissions and safeguard our homes and workplaces against a rapidly warming climate and increasing costs of fossil fuels, and Vancity strongly supports adoption of the ZCSC as proposed.

The Climate Action Committee's recommendation to implement ZCSC EL-4 by January 1, 2025, will align Port Moody's building code requirements with key regional municipalities like New Westminster and Burnaby that are also building more climate-resilient buildings. If Council endorses this recommendation, new construction buildings in Port Moody will lock in lower emissions and heating costs through electrification over the lifecycle of a building while avoiding expensive retrofits needed to address our region's more frequent extreme weather events. Additionally, buildings constructed to maintain safe indoor air quality and temperatures will be standard and do more to protect Port Moody residents from our region's increasingly hot and smoky summers.

Port Moody City Council can take a significant step in the fight against climate change by adopting the staff and committee recommendation to implement the ZCSC. On behalf of our 560,000 Vancity members, we thank you for your leadership in building a clean, fair world. We welcome any questions and look forward to working with your administration on our shared priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Ewald".

Glenn Ewald  
Director of Government Relations and Stakeholder Engagement