



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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For further information, contact:
Christina Crabtree at 604-467-7457
ccrabtree@mapleridge.ca

Maple Ridge Wins National Award for City's Open Government Portal

Fredericton, NB (May 30, 2018) – Maple Ridge, BC has received national recognition for its Open Government Portal from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA). Maple Ridge was presented with the 2018 CAMA Willis Award for Innovation, in the 20,001 to 100,000 population category, during CAMA's national conference in Fredericton, NB.

“CAMA is pleased to recognize the innovation demonstrated by Maple Ridge for their Open Government Portal,” said Janice Baker, president of CAMA and City Manager for Mississauga, Ontario. “Launched in 2017, it is a unique way to share information with citizens.”

“At the beginning of our term Council developed a vision around open government and engaged the community to define how we could achieve that vision. A group of dedicated volunteers, the Citizen's Representative Working Group developed 58 well-articulated recommendations for our staff to begin their part of the project,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “Over the next two years Council was presented with pieces of the Open Government Portal as the team worked to turn our vision and the recommendations into action. The final Open Government Portal exceeded our expectations and propelled our community into a leadership position in the field. We are all very proud that CAMA has recognized this work at a national level.”

The CAMA Award notification noted that the Open Government Portal launched in 2017 and, to quote from the award release;

“The true innovation of the platform lives in the values on which it was built: increasing community engagement, promoting transparency, and gaining business value from data.

From these values, the City of Maple Ridge created a tool that has improved the quality and efficiency of customer service, enabled managers to make real-time evidence-based decisions, and empowered a more informed public to engage in community dialogue.

Not only can citizens download the data, but they can also use the interactive portal to delve into it on their own in a way that is quick and intuitive. Set to disrupt local government data administration, the City of Maple Ridge Open Government Portal is a novel approach for how citizens and local governments can gain value from municipal data.”

“CAMA received a total of 32 award submissions for this year’s awards program,” said Jack Benzaquen, Chair of CAMA’s Awards Committee, CAMA Representative for Quebec and City Manager of the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC. “We were impressed by the quality of entries and the projects being carried out by our members. Congratulations to the winners and all those who took the time to enter a submission.”

The Willis Award for Innovation, awarded in recognition of Jack Willis for his contribution to CAMA, is presented for programs, projects or services that demonstrate exceptional innovation or meritorious initiative. Since Canada has a unique mixture of small and large communities, awards are granted according to population – for municipalities under 20,000, for those between 20,001 and 100,000 and for those over 100,000.

Citizens can explore the Maple Ridge Open Government Portal at opengov.mapleridge.ca/.

For more information about the Open Government Portal please contact Christina Crabtree, Chief Information Officer for the City of Maple Ridge by email at ccrabtree@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-467-7457.

For more information about the CAMA Awards please contact Stacey Murray by email at admin@camacam.ca or by phone at 506-261-3534.

About CAMA:

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) is a national, non-profit association open to all Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) / City Managers and any person employed in a senior management position that reports directly to a CAO. With a membership of over 600 senior municipal employees from all parts of Canada, CAMA collectively represents more than 70% of the nation’s population. www.camacam.ca