



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Question Set For Non-Binding Plebiscite on Garbage & Green Waste

Maple Ridge, BC: Citizens across BC will be selecting their new Mayor, Councillors and School Trustees as part of the upcoming General Local Election. Here in Maple Ridge, electors will receive a second ballot for a non-binding plebiscite on curbside garbage and green waste pickup.

“This has been a topic of discussion for many years. This fulfills a commitment that our Council made to provide citizens with the opportunity to have their say on whether curbside garbage and green waste pickup should be a City managed service. I want to acknowledge the determination and passion around the Council table to get this question before the public. The incoming Council will have the results to guide their discussions and decisions,” said Mayor Nicole Read.

Citizens will be asked to provide a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ response to the following statement;

“I support paying up to \$270 per year per household for the following service:

- *Kitchen scraps and green waste curbside collection – weekly pickup;*
- *Garbage curbside collection – biweekly (every two weeks) pickup;*
- *One set of totes/cans per household included;*
- *Large item pickup twice a year.”*

The ballot will also contain the following additional information;

- *This information is being collected by the City of Maple Ridge, to assist in determining whether the City should provide a municipally-administered curbside pickup service for garbage and green waste.*
- *All voters are asked to respond. However, if the service is implemented, only houses and townhouses currently receiving City curbside recycling pickup would be eligible.*

- *The proposed charge is approximate and reflects first-year costs. The charge may be adjusted annually as required to fund the program and would be added to the annual property tax bill.*
- *The service would not be optional. If the service is implemented, all eligible residences in the service area will be charged regardless of whether the service is used.*
- *The plebiscite result will be presented at a Council meeting open to the public in November 2018 and is not binding on the current or future Councils.*

The dollar amount was established by reviewing information that was submitted by potential service providers, which showed a broad range. An allowance has been made to cover costs related to the administration of the contract.

Advance Voting begins on October 6, 2018 and the General Election Day is on Saturday, October 20. Polls will be open from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm for all 19 voting opportunities being held throughout the community. Information on voting locations can be found on the City website at mapleridge.ca/870. The City will also be publishing notices in the local newspaper.

Citizens can access an interactive map of voting locations using the 'WHAM' application that is part of the City's Open Government Portal. The direct link to the portal is opengov.mapleridge.ca. You can also access the map using the 'Your Maple Ridge' app, available free for your smartphone from the Apple and Google Play stores. Citizens can type their address into the '2018 Civic Election Voting Locations' map to find the closest voting location.