



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Asks for Alternatives to One Year Pool Closure

Maple Ridge, BC: Maple Ridge Council will be holding a special Workshop meeting on Thursday, December 10 to examine alternatives to the proposed one year shutdown to replace the aging mechanical systems and renovate the oldest section of the Leisure Centre pool facility.

On Monday, December 7, Council received a final report on the Leisure Centre pool renovations. The report outlined the bid process, recommended a contractor and discussed the funding envelope of \$5.3 million, which included a contingency amount of \$481,000. The report also identified that the aquatic area of the Leisure Centre would be closed for up to one year to complete the project and noted that staff are looking for ways to keep the existing competition and teach pools open during the renovations however the options received through the tender process limit this potential.

After hearing the report at Committee of the Whole Council opted to defer the item from the Tuesday, December 8 Council meeting agenda and hold a special Workshop meeting to look at alternatives to the recommendations. Staff will be preparing a report providing Council with alternatives to closing the pool for a year. That report will also examine the implications of moving forward with the construction of a new pool facility and keeping the current facility in operation until that work is complete.

“All of us on Council understand that a 35 year old building needs to have upgrades. What came as a surprise is the proposed one year closure of the facility. This may seem like a short period of time in the scope of our 141 year history as a community, but as the parent of two boys, I can tell you that one year is a very long time in their young lives,” said Mayor Read. “Council has

heard from pool users and community members how this will impact their lives and we have a strong commitment to ensuring that our community has top quality recreational facilities for citizens. Based on the public feedback we've received on this issue and the many questions that Council had on Monday we are going to step back and take the time to make sure that we make the right decision to deal with the short term and long term goals of the community.”

In the meantime the pool facility continues to operate fully and safely.

For more information regarding this release please contact Mayor Nicole Read at nread@mapleridge.ca or by calling 604-463-5221.