



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2016 #16-20

For further information, contact:
Kelly Swift at 604-467-7337
kswift@mapleridge.ca

Maple Ridge Unveils Concept to Revitalize Civic Facilities

First step to prepare for public consultation aligns with recent infrastructure funding announcement

Maple Ridge, BC: The City has prepared a concept plan to upgrade and 'complete' the Civic Centre surrounding Memorial Peace Park with a new Cultural facility and improvements to the Maple Ridge Leisure Center. Space for civic assembly, post-secondary education and a youth wellness clinic were also included. This concept is the first of five infrastructure initiatives to have presentation materials developed that will be used to apply for emerging grant funding opportunities and to gather the community's feedback.

Council directed staff to prepare similar presentation materials for the remaining infrastructure projects including a Multi-use Wellness Facility with an Aquatic Centre, Synthetic Fields in a Stadium and Event Setting, Ice Rinks and Neighbourhood amenities.

HCMA Architecture + Design of Vancouver completed the civic facility feasibility study for the City which provides an exciting starting discussion point for a full community consultation process. Details on the public engagement and consultation process are expected to come before Council on May 23, 2016.

The concept of a Cultural facility and upgrades to the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre were developed first to capture emerging grant funding opportunities. Recently, the Federal government announced it was moving forward and expanding its infrastructure plans. The Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, which is earmarked for the rehabilitation of existing community facilities and the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund are just two possible sources of funding that might be available to the City for this initial concept.

By submitting proposals for these funds, Maple Ridge hopes to partner with senior levels of government to expand and enhance facilities on land it already owns, in a cost effective way. New facilities would not only create a vibrant community gathering place but would provide exciting partnership opportunities and much needed space for youth and adult education programs.

“When I meet with business and government leaders from outside our community they tell us how fortunate we are to have this incredible civic complex and park in the centre of our community. The concept that Council saw today is an amazing example of what is possible to complete the civic campus and create spaces for large community gatherings, post-secondary education facilities and partnerships, a new museum and archives and a possible hotel or seniors housing project to create activity in the town centre into the evening,” said Mayor Read. “These drawings, and this kind of high level discussion, allow us to show the public what is possible for the five major projects that we are exploring as a community. Armed with strong visuals and explorations of space and usage we can have a broad community dialogue and get meaningful feedback on each of the concepts. This will allow the City to look for partnerships with senior government and the private sector to move these projects forward.”

For more information please contact Kelly Swift, General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation Services at kswift@mapleridge.ca or 604-467-7337