



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Wins National Municipal Award for Professional Development

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge, BC has received national recognition for its Business Administration Diploma Program from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA). The City was presented with the 2016 CAMA Professional Development Award, in the 20,001 to 100,000 population category, during CAMA's national conference in Winnipeg, MB. Ravenhill Group Inc. is the sponsor for the awards. You can watch the CAMA video about the award here - <https://youtu.be/TffiXDBfPQ>

“CAMA is pleased to recognize the professional development excellence demonstrated by Maple Ridge with its diploma program for staff,” said Don MacLellan, president of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and General Manager – Community Safety Services for Moncton, NB. “The program educates and engages employees, provides opportunities for advancement and helps to complete municipal projects.”

The City of Maple Ridge recognizes that their employees are their greatest asset. They appreciate the benefit of investing in them to increase engagement, retention, and address any future needs identified in the succession planning process.

To support employees, the City explored the possibility of offering internal post-secondary programs in a cohort format that aligned with its Training and Development Policy. These programs address educational gaps for staff, and create opportunities for enhancing business knowledge to strategically align employees with projects.

In 2012, the City formally partnered with British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) to host a post-secondary program that would either support a Diploma of Business Management or

Bachelor of Business Administration. The intent was to provide a cohort atmosphere supporting full-time and part-time staff to enhance their formal education while maintaining their employment status.

Recognizing that many staff would not otherwise have had this opportunity, Maple Ridge implemented a blended format of on-site campus and on-line studies providing further flexibility for staff.

As a result of the program, eight of the students have moved into more senior roles and other employees have experienced professional growth. Seven strategic projects have been completed, supporting a variety of departments. Graduation of the entire cohort is anticipated in January 2018.

“A total of 41 submissions from all across the country were received for this year’s CAMA awards program,” said Marc Landry, Chair of CAMA’s Awards Committee, as well as the CAMA Representative for Alberta & Northwest Territories and Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Beaumont, AB. “The entire Committee was very impressed by the exciting projects that are being done by communities of all sizes. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who took the time to submit projects for consideration.”

CAMA’s Professional Development Award recognizes a community that has developed a unique and innovative program for their staff and can be replicated in other communities. 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.

CAMA is a Canada-wide network and the national voice of senior municipal administrators, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) strives to nurture and build municipal administrative excellence by providing its more than 500 members with knowledge sharing and learning opportunities, access to best practices and valued input into policies and programs aimed at ensuring healthy and thriving communities across Canada. Visit <http://www.camacam.ca/en/> for more information on CAMA

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that they were unaware of because - simply put - they weren't thinking of a job change. The very best people are not looking and need to be found. <http://ravenhillgroup.com/>

For more information on CAMA please contact Alycia Bartlett, CAMA Communications at 506-470-4863 or at admin@camacam.ca

For more information on the City of Maple Ridge receiving this award please contact Fred Armstrong, Manager of Corporate Communications at 604-834-4412 or farmstrong@mapleridge.ca.