



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Flies Canadian Pride Flag to Mourn Victims of Orlando Shooting

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday, June 13, at the start of the Council Workshop meeting Mayor Nicole Read called for a moment of silence after reading the following statement; “Yesterday we awoke to the news of the shooting in Orlando, Florida. There is no shortage of people that will spin this incident to reinforce their political agendas, but at the core of this senseless act of violence is hate and intolerance. It is a great darkness in our society. All of us struggle with a way to process this act and find a way to move forward.

Let's start by remembering the victims who have perished and those who are in hospital. Let us also honour the first responders in Orlando - the police, the fire department and ambulance personnel as well as the nurses and doctors whose heroic intervention helped keep the situation from being worse.

How do we move forward? How do we fight back against the darkness that led to this shooting. The only way I know to counter the dark is with light. We need to send a message of love and tolerance.

The flag outside City Hall is flying at half-mast this morning and will soon be replaced by a special 'pride flag' that will fly over City Hall for the next few weeks until after Canada Day. This is our way of showing our love for the LGBTQ citizens of our community and around the world and sending a signal that we will not let darkness take root here.”

Council also unanimously passed a motion to fly the Pride Flag at City Hall during Pride Week from July 24 to 31, 2016 and to have staff bring back recommendations for a location to install a permanent rainbow crosswalk in Maple Ridge.

“Our community wants to send a strong message about love, respect, equality and tolerance,” said Mayor Read. “Maple Ridge is an inclusive City and we are proud to embrace our LGBTQ citizens. You are our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles – you are our family.”

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