



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2016 #16-36

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Maple Ridge Council Endorses BC Games Bid and Sport & Physical Activity Strategy

Maple Ridge, BC: On June 28, Council gave the go ahead for City staff to prepare a bid package for Maple Ridge to host the BC Summer Games in either 2020 or 2022. The City will seek to partner with School District No. 42 which was a key partner when the City hosted the BC Disability Games in 2009 and the BC Summer Games in 1998.

At the same meeting Council endorsed the Sport & Physical Activity Strategy that will act as a roadmap for discussion, collaboration, action and change that will see a stronger integration of the expertise and leadership in our community to take sport and physical activity to the next level. The final strategy document reflects the feedback received through community consultation that saw leaders in the local sport community, the School District, City staff and Fraser Health come together to forge a vision that reads;

For the present and future sport and physical activity: Maple Ridge will strengthen our community by providing lifelong sport and physical activity opportunities so that all residents may experience the joy of participating in sport, and achieve their full potential in areas of sport skill development, excellence and sport leadership.

“At the most recent Maple Ridge Community Foundation dinner I heard a presentation from Karina LeBlanc, Women’s Soccer Olympic Bronze Medalist, on her personal journey from our community to the international stage and the highest level of competition in her chosen sport. She talked to the crowd about how she started playing soccer on the gravel field close to Maple Ridge Senior Secondary and how her involvement in sport gave her confidence and purpose in her life,” said Mayor Read. “This Council has made the development of youth sports facilities a priority in our mandate and all of us on Council are proud that we are ahead of the aspirational

goals and timeline in this Strategy. It is our hope that the timing of the BC Summer Games bid will coincide with the development of new recreation facilities that will showcase the talent of our local youth and allow the next Karina LeBlanc to find her passion and make her mark on the world.”

In her presentation to Council on Tuesday, June 28, Christa Balatti, Health and Wellness Manager for the City of Maple Ridge spoke about how well this strategy aligns with Provincial and Federal initiatives to encourage lifelong physical activity goals that will lead to healthier citizens. She noted, “The Strategy is the culmination of a conversation that started when local sport organizations got together and began to communicate and collaborate on recruiting participants for their programs. Very quickly the old notion that groups were competing for recruits gave way to a realization that young people were involved in multiple sports, and that is a very good thing. A new era of cooperation and collaboration has helped create a stronger community network that, working in concert with Fraser Health, School District No. 42 and our Parks & Recreation team, will see this strategy take life over the next few years.”

For more information on the Sport & Physical Activity Strategy or the BC Summer Games bid please contact Wendy McCormick, Director of Recreation & Community Services at wmccormick@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-467-7328