



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Maple Ridge Council Endorses the Economic Development Committee's Technology Task Force - Fibre Optic Strategy

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday, September 12 Maple Ridge Council received a presentation from the City's Economic Development Committee's Technology Task Force about the importance of having a robust fibre optic backbone to help create capacity for start-ups and the expansion of technological businesses in Maple Ridge. Earlier this year the Economic Development Department developed a series of 'action oriented' task forces to target key economic sectors and leverage the expertise of the local business community. This is the first Task Force recommendation to come before Council.

The report provided an update on the work that has been done over the last decade to create the capacity to run a fibre optic network throughout the community. Conduit has been installed as part of road network expansion and upgrades to allow for the installation of fibre optic lines. The City of Maple Ridge has already installed fibre optic lines to connect City Hall, Fire Hall No. 1 and the Operation Centre to enhance operational efficiencies and provide backup in case of an emergency.

"Maple Ridge, like many businesses in the private sector, has to manage huge amounts of data, have a robust resiliency strategy and leverages technology to deliver efficient and effective service to citizens," said Christina Crabtree, Chief Information Officer, for the City of Maple Ridge. "The investment in running our own fiber network has been more than offset by cost reductions associated with paying for these services from a third party."

Josef Hans Lara, a community member who has volunteered as the Chair of the Economic Development Committee and its Technology Task Force, was part of the presentation to Council.

“As a community we can be leaders in supplying this technology to the business community or we can wait until the commercial fiber suppliers get around to servicing this marketplace. When the Technology Task Force learned about the work that was done over the last decade to create the conduit we felt it was important to come before Council and recommend that we move quickly to exploit this asset and begin the roll out of a fiber strategy that links key nodes in our community,” said Mr. Lara. “As someone in the technology field, I see this as a critical initiative to develop a technology hub and capture opportunities in the fastest growing sector of BC’s economy.”

Council members endorsed the Task Force recommendations unanimously and asked the Economic Development and Information Technology departments to come back with some specific recommendations on where to begin expanding on the existing network, potential partnerships and the costs and best areas to move this work forward to benefit citizens.

For more information of the Fiber Optic Strategy please contact Lino Siracusa, Manager of Economic Development, at lsiracusa@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-467-7319.