



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Council Makes Major Pitch for Maple Ridge Civic and Cultural Facility at UBCM

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, September 27 and Thursday, September 29 Council will be meeting with members of the BC Cabinet to ask for financial support towards a major Civic and Cultural Facility. This will address shared aspirations of creating a welcoming space that provides a location for youth in this community to gather, encourages higher education opportunities and offers a new home for the museum that will complete the heart of our civic precinct located in the centre of Maple Ridge.

Members of Council will be meeting with Minister Stilwell - Social Development & Social Innovation, Minister Fassbender - Community Sport & Cultural Development, Minister Cadieux - Children & Family Development, Minister Rustad - Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation and Minister Wilkinson - Ministry of Advanced Education. Local MLAs Dr. Doug Bing and Marc Dalton will present at the meeting to provide local input for their Cabinet colleagues.

“Maple Ridge is one of the fastest growing communities in Metro Vancouver and we are projected to increase by 50% in the next 15 to 20 years. The project that Council is presenting to Provincial Ministers is their opportunity to invest in Maple Ridge with a lasting impact for every demographic of our community, meet significant service needs across all portfolios and create a catalyst for possible private partnerships that will, literally, complete the heart of Maple Ridge,” said Mayor Nicole Read. Key components of the proposal include:

Youth Wellness Centre

The Youth Wellness Centre will provide critical mental health supports for youth who need access to professional services to help them transition to adulthood and ensure that they have a path to wellness. This ‘ask’ builds on a grass roots campaign that is being coordinated by Maple

Ridge Pitt Meadows Community Services who have taken the first steps to establish the Youth Wellness Centre.

Post-Secondary Centre

A post-secondary centre is essential in achieving the goal to increase transition rates for Maple Ridge students from secondary to post-secondary education. Maple Ridge has already approached Simon Fraser University about a possible partnership to create a satellite campus to help area youth and adults access post-secondary opportunities locally.

Museum and Archives

Maple Ridge and the neighbouring Katzie & Kwantlen First Nations have an incredible story to tell, but the existing facility only allows for a fraction of the historical artifacts and stories to be told. A new modern museum and archive facility would allow for an exciting collaboration between the City and Katzie & Kwantlen First Nations to tell the story of this region in an engaging and modern environment that would strengthen the sense of community for all citizens and create a tourism destination for the City.

Conference & Community Gathering Space

Maple Ridge has a need for an indoor space that would allow for the community to host conferences, large community gatherings and celebrations and enhance the ability of local organizations to host events year round in the community. In addition to the enormous cultural benefits to the community, such a space creates strong synergies for a potential private partner such as a hotel and restaurant operator to take advantage of the grouping of these amenities.

Upgrades to Existing Facilities

The proposed footprint of a new Civic and Cultural Facility would require an expansion of the City's underground parking, create opportunities to develop stronger links between the existing facilities by way of enhanced landscape designs and serve as the catalyst for upgrades to the existing Leisure Centre to create alignments for the partnerships the new facility will create.

A similar presentation has already been made to the Federal Government with the support of Dan Ruimy, Member of Parliament for Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows. “I am impressed by the scope and vision of the proposal,” said MP Ruimy.

He adds, “There is an enormous potential for a broad partnership and collaboration across all levels of government that will be a tremendous benefit to all citizens. What impressed me are the opportunities to engage our youth. There is a connection between these elements. Creating a strong service delivery model around youth mental health allows our children to transition to adulthood with strength and purpose. The ability to teach our children about the history of the region and create strong connections to this place through the wisdom and experiences of our Katzie & Kwantlen First Nations is huge. The ability to begin a journey to higher education will allow us to tap the potential of our bright young men and women. I’m excited to hear how the presentations go.”

The information included in the presentations can be found on the City’s website at mapleridge.ca/1564. The link also includes a video pitch that has been done by Mayor Read for all levels of government and potential private partners.

“With strong financial commitments from the Federal and Provincial Government, we can look for private partnerships to build on the assets and energy in the heart of our city,” said Mayor Read.

For more information on the Civic and Cultural Facility please contact Kelly Swift, General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation Services at 604-467-7337 or by email at kswift@mapleridge.ca.