



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2016 #16-67

For further information, contact:  
Deputy Fire Chief Michael Van Dop at 604-463-5880  
[mvandop@mapleridge.ca](mailto:mvandop@mapleridge.ca)

## Fire Underwriters Survey Upgrade City of Maple Ridge

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Over the last decade the City of Maple Ridge has transitioned from a volunteer response model to the current composite model that utilizes a combination of career firefighters and paid-on-call staff. The transition to this model has favourably decreased the response times for Maple Ridge citizens. A recent grading review by the Fire Underwriters Survey has seen Maple Ridge receive upgrades in the 'Public Fire Protection Classification' (PFPC) and 'Dwelling Protection Grades' (DPG).

A fire insurance grade review covers four areas of public fire protection; Fire Department, Water Supplies, Fire Safety Control and Emergency Communications. These are all areas where the City of Maple Ridge has made significant investments over the last decade.

"I know that we tend to talk in jargon, however these Fire Underwriter grading reviews are kind of like the 'report card' for fire departments around Canada. In 1989, we were given a PFPC of 6 and our latest classification is PFPC of 3. This ranking should see a positive impact for commercial insurance policy holders in the City resulting in potentially lower premiums depending on their claims history," said Chief Howard Exner.

He added, "we are also very proud to see that the Dwelling Protection Grades (DPG) assigned to Fire Hall No. 1 and Fire Hall No. 3 areas have improved from DPG 3A to DPG 1. This classification is for private lines of insurance, most commonly single family homes. Insurance rate payers most likely will not see any benefit from this change however; it reflects our enhanced capacity to deal with fire emergencies in these areas of the City."

In the coming weeks Council will be hearing about the future plans for the Maple Ridge Fire Department.

“We’ve seen significant growth in the Albion neighbourhood and we want to make sure that we are proactive in bringing Fire Hall No. 4 before Council to move the project forward,’ said Chief Exner. “As part of the current review from the Fire Underwriters Survey we know that the addition of Fire Hall No. 4 will improve our PFPC rank from 3 to 2.

“These improved ratings for the City of Maple Ridge reflect the vision and investment that has been made by this and past Councils to ensure that we have a strong and affordable fire protection plan for our community,” added the Chief.

For more information please contact Maple Ridge Fire Department Chief Howard Exner by email at [hexner@mapleridge.ca](mailto:hexner@mapleridge.ca) or by phone at 604-463-5880