



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Community Facilities Consultation Launches Community Survey

Maple Ridge, BC: At the beginning of December 2016 the ‘Community Facilities Conversation’ was launched with the establishment of a webpage and the deployment of displays at the Maple Ridge Public Library, the west entrance of City Hall, Planet Ice and the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre. On Monday, January 9, Council was provided with a briefing on the next steps of the Community Facilities Consultation by Jennifer Wilson, the consultant who will provide Council with an independent report on the community’s priorities and feedback on the proposed recreation and culture projects that are being considered by City Council. These proposals were identified in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan that was developed with significant community consultation and adopted in 2009.

Ms. Wilson provided an overview of the methodology of the random survey that will be conducted to create statistically representative data of the community’s perspective. Additional community consultation opportunities include stakeholder surveys, focus groups, intercept surveys and displays at key locations

“I’d like to thank Ms. Wilson and our staff for the work that has been done to set up the project pages on the City website. The combination of videos and text content is very informative and ensures that citizens have the details they need to provide relevant responses and comments,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “All of us on Council recognize that Maple Ridge is one of the fastest growing communities in the Lower Mainland and the feedback and comments that we receive as part of the Community Facilities Conversation will allow us to develop priorities and a financial plan to deliver on citizen’s wishes in the short and long term.”

Ms. Wilson noted that the survey invitation will be mailed to 3,000 randomly selected addresses in Maple Ridge in the coming weeks. The survey asks citizens for feedback and comments on each of the project concepts, their priorities for project development and provides respondents with information on project costs and payment.

“The results of this random survey will be an essential component of the work we do in March with ‘pop-up surveys’ in the community, focus groups and, following our draft report to Council, the planned Open House & Community Café to review the report findings,” said Jennifer Wilson. “This will give Council a solid statistically representative survey to underpin the other community feedback that will be held over the next few months. The process endorsed by Council ensures that this discussion will not be driven by special interests, but has a strong foundation from all citizens in the community. We urge citizens who are invited to participate in this survey to take this opportunity to be part of this important discussion about the future development of our community.”

Part of the discussion at the Monday Council Workshop meeting focused on the ways these projects could be funded.

“In the coming years the debt for the town centre project will be retired, creating capacity for us to fund some of the proposed projects. The survey outlines a number of possible funding scenarios, including an annual property tax increase of one percent each year over 15 years that could fund the full list of projects,” said Kelly Swift, General Manager: Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services. “In addition, once the priorities have been established we will aggressively pursue funding grants and partnerships to offset the direct costs to taxpayers. The first step, however, is to get this important feedback from citizens.”

“All of us on Council would like to encourage the households that get the invitation to take the time to participate in this important survey,” said Mayor Read. “The survey is easy to do and accessible for all citizens with an online option, paper survey or the survey can even be done over the phone. Your views are a critical part of this work.”

Community members can review the Community Facilities Conversation information by visiting mapleridge.ca/1676. Details for each of the project concepts are available and include a concept briefing video as well as PDF version that outlines the scope of each project. There is also a link to the Community Engagement section that provides details for the online surveys, the pop-up display locations, any upcoming open houses and ‘Notify Me’ subscription (which will

allow citizens to receive email notifications of any new information related to the Community Facilities Conversation).

For more information on the Community Facilities Conversation please contact Parks, Recreation & Culture at 604-467-7346 or email facilitytalk@mapleridge.ca.