



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Random Survey Letters Have Been Mailed to 3,000 Homes as the Community Facilities Consultation Continues

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge is in the very early stages of the 'Community Facilities Conversation,' to gather public feedback from citizens on projects that were identified in the 2010 Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan developed with significant community input and endorsed by the Council of the day.

"All of us on Council have heard that there are tremendous pressures on our sports and culture facilities and a lack of public gathering spaces in fast growing neighbourhoods. This Council was elected to provide leadership to develop the short and long term plans to address the needs of our growing community," said Mayor Read. "All seven of us on Council will review the recommendations and develop a staged plan to address the needs that you, the citizens, tell us are desired."

The Public consultation kicked off in December of 2016 with the launch of a webpage www.mapleridge.ca/1676/Community-Facilities-Conversation and public displays currently located in the lobby of the Maple Ridge Business Tower, the Maple Ridge Public Library, the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre and Planet Ice.

Jennifer Wilson, who is leading the consultation, provided an update to Council as part of the January 9, 2017, Council Workshop. At that meeting Ms. Wilson described the wide variety of ways that the public will be able to provide their feedback. This graphic outlines the steps that are being followed in the consultation and will be updated as the consultation meets various milestones www.mapleridge.ca/1685/Community-Engagement.



Over the last week 3,000 letters were mailed to random Maple Ridge addresses inviting them to participate in a statistically valid survey to capture comments on the projects that are under consideration. Ms. Wilson noted that the information from this independent survey will be combined with responses from stakeholder feedback forms, a broader community feedback form that is available as part of the displays and on the City website and other forums. Findings will be presented in a preliminary report to Council and at a Community Open House and Community Café in late spring. This additional community feedback will be included in the final report to Council, where Council will set priorities and timelines.

The City website has been updated to include the 'Project Costs and Payment Information' www.mapleridge.ca/1714/Project-Costs-and-Payment-Options to ensure that citizens understand the projected construction and operating costs for each of the concepts and ways that the projects can be financed.

After priorities and timelines have been established staff will develop the financial plan framework to come back to Council for endorsement prior to proceeding for public approval.

In the meantime, the City is actively working to identify possible funding from senior levels of government and examining partnerships and sponsorships to help offset the construction costs to local taxpayers for any projects that are identified as priorities in this process.

“This conversation we are having is about the future. Many of us sitting at the Council table today will not be here for the ribbon cutting for whatever facilities you tell us are important to our community. It is a reality of political life that your very best work involves making long term decisions that will come to fruition long after you leave public life,” said Mayor Read. “My kids learned to swim in a pool that was built because of a Council who decided to build the first integrated Leisure Centre and pool in western Canada almost 40 years ago. That’s what we are elected to do today, and with the input of the community, we will make sure that the future Maple Ridge builds on the legacy that we’ve been given by past Councils.”

For more information about the Community Facilities Conversation process please contact Don Cramb, Senior Recreation Manager and staff project liaison, by email at dcramb@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-467-7466