



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Help Shape the Future

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The City of Maple Ridge is currently involved in an extensive consultation around the future development of parks, recreation and cultural facilities to meet the needs of our growing community. Last week, Statistics Canada released the preliminary data from the 2016 Census and Maple Ridge's population has grown by 8.15% to 82,256 people since 2011. Since the original Maple Ridge Leisure Centre was built in the early 80s Maple Ridge has more than doubled in population from 32,232 (1981 Census) to 82,256 people, a growth of over 50,000 citizens.

This growth requires careful planning to meet the short and long term needs of Maple Ridge's amateur sports and cultural organizations, community associations and the needs of citizens for parks and open spaces. The 'Community Facilities Conversation' flows from the work that began with an extensive community consultation culminating in Council's endorsement of the 2010 Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan. The Community Facilities Consultation web page at [mapleridge.ca/1676](http://mapleridge.ca/1676) was launched in December of 2016 and contains information on the project concepts and Community Engagement opportunities for citizens.

"This will be a 'Community Plan.' Citizen input will inform Council's decisions based on the current level of support for the parks, recreation and cultural facility proposals and capital investment required for each component. Since the 2010 Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan was endorsed by Council, Maple Ridge has welcomed over 6,000 new residents who are looking for opportunities to be active and participate in sports and cultural activities. This is why we are having this conversation. We need to have a plan to meet the needs for today and for tomorrow," said Mayor Nicole Read. "We are asking all citizens to 'Help Shape the Future' of Maple Ridge by making your voice heard as part of the Community Facilities Conversation."

Citizens can fill out a feedback form on the facility proposals that are part of the Community Facilities Conversation online or at the pop-up displays that are located at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre, Planet Ice, the Maple Ridge Senior's Centre or at the Maple Ridge Public Library.

“Random survey invitations were sent out at the end of January and we are reminding citizens who received a pin code to complete the survey prior to the close date of February 24, 2017,” said Jennifer Wilson, who is leading the consultation. “The community feedback forms will remain open into March. I would like to encourage citizens to check out the web page for the Community Facilities Conversation at [mapleridge.ca/1676](http://mapleridge.ca/1676). It is a great resource to learn more about the project proposals and keep in touch with the next steps for this project.

For more information about the Community Facilities Conversation please contact Don Cramb, Senior Recreation Manager and project liaison for the City of Maple Ridge by email at [dcramb@mapleridge.ca](mailto:dcramb@mapleridge.ca) or by phone at 604-467-7466.