



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Maple Ridge Launches New Open Government Portal

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, October 17 the City of Maple Ridge launched a new Open Government Portal with a live stream demonstration in Council Chambers attended by Mayor and Council. The portal is available directly at opengov.mapleridge.ca and can be reached through the City's website mapleridge.ca.

The flagship application, called 'What's Happening Around Me?' (WHAM), uses a map based approach that allows you to explore what's going on around your address. With one click you can get access to a whole host of information, including community events, road closures, development activity, businesses, parks, service requests, building and emergency incidents.

'WHAM' can also be used as a launch pad to more services. One example from the demonstration showed how easy it is to transition from viewing service requests in your neighbourhood to submitting one, such as a burnt out streetlight.

Other features of the Open Government Portal highlighted at the launch included;

- 1) Tools and 'activity maps' to help you understand How Things Work, How You Can Participate and Where You Can Find Information on City Finances, Land Development and Transportation.
- 2) Applications that will provide citizens with quick answers to common requests like the new Property Tax Estimator.
- 3) City Stats, delivered through Data Visualizations that allow you to slice and dice the information the way you want.

The City has developed a series of tutorials to help citizens use the portal including one on exploring the Home Page youtu.be/zJX80cdZCpM and a tutorial on the WHAM application youtu.be/M2IMiwmvpll.

“When we struck the Open Government Task Force we had a strong vision around increasing access to information, encouraging greater collaboration, participation and community engagement and promoting transparency and accountability to citizens,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “The volunteers from the Citizens Representative Working Group did an incredible job gathering community input and developing recommendations that have served as the roadmap for this project. I encourage citizens to explore the new portal and see how our team have created an innovative new way for citizens to access information on their City.”

To encourage citizens to explore and navigate the site the City of Maple Ridge is holding a ‘Community Beta Test’ contest from October 18 through to November 30, 2017. Look for the thumbs up/thumbs down icons throughout the Open Government Portal and provide your feedback. Any person who provides a comment or suggestion is automatically entered into a draw for the grand prize of an Apple 32GB iPad tablet and two additional draws for a \$100 gift card at the winner’s favourite local business.

For more information about the Open Government Portal please contact Christina Crabtree, Chief Information Officer for the City of Maple Ridge by telephone at 604-467-7457 or by email at ccrabtree@mapleridge.ca.