



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2019 #19-14

For further information, contact:
Amanda Grochowich at 604-467-5566
agrochowich@mapleridge.ca

City of Maple Ridge Wins Open for Business Award

Maple Ridge, BC: On February 21 the BC Small Business Roundtable presented the City of Maple Ridge with the 'Open for Business Award' in the large community category. On Tuesday, February 26 Maple Ridge Council received the award from City staff members who attended the Small Business BC Awards.

"As someone who started my business in the dining room of my home, it is very rewarding to see our City recognized for the development of the most progressive home based business bylaws in the region," said Mayor Morden. "I want to commend our staff and the previous Council who made this work a priority as part of our Economic Development Strategy. There are so many large businesses in our community that started, like mine, in a home office. This is a wonderful recognition of that reality."

The judges made the following comment as part of the awards presentation;

"A significant percentage of the businesses opportunity in Maple Ridge is being unlocked by their home-based businesses, explaining the City of Maple Ridge's mission to become one of the most home based business friendly jurisdictions in British Columbia. The potential for these businesses to grow into larger businesses inspired the City to revise and streamline regulations and take action to make it easier for home based businesses to do business in their community."

Background

In 2016, the Economic Development Committee formed the Home Based Business Task Force to review the City's zoning by-laws and licencing processes for home based businesses. The task force was made up of home based businesses from Maple Ridge and supported by staff from the Economic Development, Planning and Licence and Permits departments. The goal of this task force was to encourage the establishment of more home-based businesses in Maple Ridge

by loosening zoning regulations and streamlining the licencing processes for home based businesses.

In October 2017, the Planning Department presented a summary report at Council Workshop that summarized the community consultation activities and revised set of regulatory changes to the Zoning Bylaw for Council consideration. Bylaw No. 7394-2017 subsequently received Final Reading and was adopted by Council on February 27, 2018.

About BC Small Business Roundtable

The BC Small Business Roundtable is the voice of small business to government in British Columbia. Members of the Roundtable represent multiple industries and regions across the province to ensure that key issues that affect small business success are addressed. These issues include reducing the costs of doing business to maintain and strengthen economic growth and competitiveness, increasing access to labour and skilled workers, and the promotion and awareness of programs, services and supports for small businesses.

About Small Business BC

Small Business BC is British Columbia's premiere resource centre for knowledge-based business products and services. Their mandate is to provide affordable, accessible training that assists small businesses improve productivity, increase profitability and take advantage of new business opportunities. Their core activities are supported by funds from Western Economic Diversification Canada and the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology.