



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Repair and Replacement of Structural Support Columns at Maple Ridge Leisure Centre Moves Opening to Early 2020

Maple Ridge, BC: Through ongoing work on the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre Aquatic Upgrade project, significant issues were discovered with a structural support column located in the original part of the facility that was constructed 40 years ago.

Upon discovery of the structural issue, the construction contractor notified City staff and an independent structural engineering company was brought in to examine all similar support columns. After doing a detailed assessment, the engineering firm recommended replacing all, or part, of 11 support columns in the facility. City staff moved immediately to undertake the column repairs and replacement. The addition of this work has extended the Leisure Centre Aquatic Upgrade completion timeline to early 2020.

“While this discovery is important to our ability to ensure we deliver an exceptional facility that meets the highest safety standards, we recognize that the setback this work has caused to our project timeline impacts residents and pool user groups,” said David Boag, Acting General Manager Parks Recreation & Culture. “I want the public to know that we explored every possible alternative to address this discovery and advance the project completion timeline. We are eager to get the work done and open our doors as quickly as possible without compromising the quality of the project. We will continue to work with user groups to minimize the impact on their programs until the project is completed.”

“Council had the opportunity to tour the Leisure Centre and get a briefing on this issue earlier today, and I appreciate the fast actions of our staff and the construction company to repair and replace structural columns that date back to the initial construction of the pool. As someone who has been involved in building renovations and retrofits, I know that you often discover problems that need to be addressed as you get deeper into a project,” said Mayor Mike Morden. “When you discover a risk to building integrity that puts our public at risk, you must elect to do the right thing

and prioritize safety. While we are disappointed that this will push the opening back, the final project will stand the test of time and offer our citizens an enhanced customer experience.”

The City of Maple Ridge will be releasing a new ‘Pool Talk’ video in July with information on the structural column issues and new footage of the construction progress on other parts of the project. Updates on the progress of the work will continue regularly throughout the summer and fall of 2019.