

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:  
Jennifer Baillie at 604-466-4339  
[jbaillie@mapleridge.ca](mailto:jbaillie@mapleridge.ca)

### **Maple Ridge Child Care Action Plan Initiative Launches With Online Survey**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The City of Maple Ridge is launching a child care needs assessment survey that will assist in the development of an action plan to address the demands of our fast growing community.

“Affordable and accessible child care is important for working families in our community,” said Mayor Morden. “This work is a partnership with the Province of BC, drawing on a \$25,000 grant through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The outcomes of this work align strongly with Council’s Strategic Plan to ensure we have a long term growth plan as our community evolves.”

The project kicks off with a community engagement component giving parents, guardians and childcare professionals an opportunity to share their thoughts on the local landscape. This will be achieved through a number of channels including an online survey, stakeholder meetings and focus groups to learn what is available in the community today, identify gaps in service and discuss potential solutions for the future.

“We are looking forward to hearing from expecting parents, parents and caregivers that access childcare to help us understand the current situation and how the City can support the growing needs in Maple Ridge,” said Roberta O’Brien, the project consultant. Ms. O’Brien brings her experience as an Early & Middle Childhood Development Practitioner along with her extensive background in project management and research to this project.

The information from the Child Care Action Plan will also be shared with the Province of BC and will become a useful resource for all levels of government to determine where investments in childcare space will have the greatest impact.

The survey link is [documents.mapleridge.ca/Forms/ChildCareSurvey](https://documents.mapleridge.ca/Forms/ChildCareSurvey) and will be available until December 31, 2019.