



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Hosts Australian Delegation

Maple Ridge, BC: On Tuesday, May 8, 2012, the District hosted staff from the Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee (OSISDC) from the Parliament of Victoria, Australia. The committee stopped at a number of North American communities and looked at the different ways that suburban communities are integrating with larger urban centres in terms of planning, housing, sustainability, transportation and economic development.

This Australian State Parliamentary Committee delegation is conducting an inquiry into the liveability and growth of Melbourne, Victoria's (Australia) outer suburbs. Through these visits with key political and administrative leaders, the committee is examining the methodologies that communities in North America are using to deal with the challenges and opportunities that also face the City of Melbourne, the state capital of Victoria and the surrounding suburban communities. The five delegates from Australia included:

- Mrs. Jan Kronberg, Chair
- Ms. Judith Graley, Deputy Chair
- Ms. Cindy McLiesh, Member
- Ms. Natalie Hutchins, Member
- Mr. Nathan Bunt, Executive Officer

“It was a great honour to meet with our colleagues from the state of Victoria to discuss how Maple Ridge is moving ahead with the development of our community in the context of being a part of Metro Vancouver. Members of the delegation began their public service in local government. It was clear from the delegates’ questions that the communities surrounding the City of Melbourne are facing issues similar to those that we do around regional development,” said Mayor Ernie Daykin. He continued, “The work we’ve done with Maple Ridge’s Official Community Plan and specific neighbourhood planning guidelines, such as the Town Centre Area Plan, were of particular interest to the delegation who noted that the integration of local planning and development into the larger regional context was impressive. The team from OSISDC has the advantage of seeing the Regional Growth Strategy after almost a decade of work.”

The delegation heard presentations from Sandy Blue, Manager Strategic Economic Initiatives, Jim Charlebois, Manager of Community Planning, and Kelly Swift, General Manager: Community Development, Parks and Recreation Services. Each of the presentations highlighted the importance of integration of short and long term business planning across departments to achieve the Council’s vision.

After the presentations and a lengthy question period, delegates were given a tour of Maple Ridge to see, first hand, how our community is progressing on Council’s vision around the Town Centre Area Plan and other developments in Maple Ridge.

Mrs. Kronberg, OSISDC Chair, thanked the Mayor for the presentation and the warm reception from the community. She remarked that all of the delegation felt very at home in Maple Ridge and was grateful for the extensive amount of information that was supplied to the delegation, both in advance, and as part of the official visit.