

# Mayor's Introduction

## MIKE MORDEN, MAYOR



On behalf of Council, I am very pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report. This publication, along with quarterly corporate, financial and Council reporting, and the City's online dashboards, represent Council's commitment of transparency and accountability to our citizens.

Council's work continues to be driven by our Strategic Plan, which includes the following five key priorities of Community Safety, Inter-Government Relations, Growth, Community Pride & Spirit and Natural Environment. A focus on these five pillars is essential to ensuring that we are planning for the future.

In 2021 we continued the implementation of our innovative Community Social Safety Initiative (CSSI). Front-line resources have had a positive impact dealing with national issues around homelessness, addiction and mental health. Other communities have reached out to learn more about our approach, and we are proud to share the knowledge we have gained.

With a public safety model making traction, we shifted attention to the 'Growth' pillar of the Strategic Plan with a focus on creating jobs closer to home. An updated Economic Development Strategy was endorsed by Council before year-end, and work has started on an update to the Strategic Transportation Plan. We have a number of service reviews underway, and the Business Plan we approved in December 2021 includes an update to our Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

A strong foundation and a culture of best in class service will ensure we have services and infrastructure in place to support our growing population. Data from the July 2021 census shows Maple Ridge's population surpassing 90,900, and the BC Government estimated we would reach 91,500 by the end of 2021. The population growth rate from the 2016 census is a staggering 10.2%, double the Canadian average.

Our leadership team is focused on working with Council to shape what Maple Ridge will look like as we surpass the 100,000-population threshold to the 150,000 projected for 2035. Decisions Council makes today will set the stage for a more sustainable and resilient community, where people can access the services they need within 15 minutes of their residence.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the reminders nature provided us in 2021 on the importance of turning our efforts towards sustainability and lowering our carbon footprint. The heat dome that hit the region over the summer, followed by the severe rainfall and flooding in November, were a wake-up call to all levels of government. We have an opportunity to learn from these events and we need to act now to ensure necessary changes are implemented to address climate change, and that we are ready for the impact of further extreme weather events.

We have much more work ahead of us. I would like to thank my colleagues on Council for their continued commitment to our Strategic Plan, as well as to staff who support not only our work, but the everyday running of core City services. This report outlines Maple Ridge's strong financial framework – it is the foundation on which we will meet the challenges the future holds. Thank you for taking the time to review our Annual Report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'M' followed by a long horizontal line.

Mike Morden, Mayor





## SCOTT HARTMAN, CAO

We are proud to present the Annual Report for the City of Maple Ridge which reflects our financial position as at December 31, 2021.

I joined the City in early 2021 to lead the Parks, Recreation & Culture team. Eight months later I stepped into the role of CAO replacing my colleague Al Horsman, who returned to Ontario to be closer to his family. We thank him for his leadership of our organization.

Maple Ridge will soon pass the 100,000-population threshold and, as Mayor Morden notes, we need to ensure that our infrastructure, service delivery and policies support the future growth of Maple Ridge in the next 5, 10 and 25 years. To that end, the leadership team and staff are focused on ensuring our organization innovates, and becomes a leader in service delivery and data driven decision making.

Strategic and Master Plans for Economic Development, Transportation, Fire Department, and Parks, Recreation & Culture are either complete or under development. We are in the midst of service reviews to make sure that we are customer focused and transparent as we build a sustainable and robust community to live, work and play.

This report looks back on the year that has passed, one where a global pandemic and extreme weather tested our resilience and capacity. As we prepare this report, we are in the recovery phase from COVID-19 and the City is adjusting to meet future challenges.

I, along with City staff, are committed to advancing Council's Strategic objectives and positioning Maple Ridge for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to review our Annual Report. It will provide an overview of the City's financial strengths, the work that we do and our relationships with other levels of government. I encourage you to visit our website to access the Performance Dashboard Hub, the City's Open Government Portal, and other online reports and presentations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Hartman', written in a cursive style.

**Scott Hartman**

Chief Administrative Officer