

City of Maple Ridge

Fact Sheet | Starting a Business

Starting a Business in Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge is a great place to start a new business: a rapidly growing population, high family incomes, and the most affordable real estate in Metro Vancouver. This is a place where small businesses that focus on delivering exceptional products and service can thrive. We're a proven market for quality home builders, skilled trades businesses, boutique shops, craft brewers, artisan food producers and premium casual independent restaurants.

The City of Maple Ridge's Economic Development Department assists both current business owners and future entrepreneurs interested in starting new businesses with information on business planning and expansion opportunities, and connects them with business and industry groups to develop strategic alliances and new economic opportunities.

Who lives in Maple Ridge?

Active young families, with good jobs, living in single family homes. Maple Ridge has the most affordable real estate in Metro Vancouver so it's not surprising that our residents are more likely to be married, have children and live in single family homes than the provincial average. On average, they're younger (40.2 years old) and more likely to have college, professional or trades certifications than other BC residents.

We're also home to a large number of urban professionals looking for rural estate homes with room for horses, boats and vehicles and located in a stunning natural environment.

Selecting the right location for your business

Whether you buy or lease, selecting the right location is one of the critical decisions that will affect the long-term success of your business. Once you've identified a property you're interested in, contact the Economic Development Department for help understanding the process for getting your business licence. **We strongly recommend that you make lease or sales agreements conditional to receiving all Municipal approvals.**

Growth equals opportunities for new businesses

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|---|----------|
| Current Population ¹ | 82,861 |
| 2041 Population ² | 118,000 |
| Average Family Income ¹ | \$93,000 |
| Local Community Workforce ¹ | 46,000 |
| Workforce with a 30-minute Commute ¹ | 800,000 |

Sources: ¹ FP Canadian Demographics 2012;

² Regional Context Statement OCP

12 Largest Employment Sectors in Maple Ridge

| | # of Employees |
|---|----------------|
| Retail trade | 5,205 |
| Health care and social assistance | 4,595 |
| Construction | 4,580 |
| Public administration | 2,785 |
| Manufacturing | 2,750 |
| Accommodation and food services | 2,675 |
| Educational services | 2,585 |
| Wholesale trade | 2,450 |
| Other services (except public administration) | 2,240 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 2,215 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 2,145 |
| Finance and insurance | 1,950 |

Getting a business licence

Getting a business licence is a simple process that is required for all businesses operating in Maple Ridge. The Coordinator for Licences and Permits located in the Economic Development Department will help you work through the process of getting permits and your business licence.



Six tips for starting your business off right

Step 1: Know the zoning

Check the zoning where your business will be located to ensure you're allowed to operate your business in that location.

Step 2: Make sure your building is “up to code”

Make sure the building where you plan to operate is “up to code”. The building must meet Provincial Building Code requirements if you're planning any renovations to the structure, or changes to the electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Older buildings may also require modifications to bring them up to current Provincial Building Code and fire requirements.

Step 3: Are you planning a “Change of Use”?

The BC Building Code's Use Classification system determines the requirements that apply for each intended use of a building. A “change of use” occurs when the intended use changes, such as when you convert a retail space into a restaurant. Please check with our Permits Department to determine the Building Code requirements that apply to your specific business.

Step 4: Get your permits

Some examples of when permits are required include the removal, installation or relocation of interior walls, windows or doors, or changes to the electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning system or sprinkler system. Signage may also require a permit.

Step 5: Find out about Fraser Health requirements

Does your business require approval from Fraser Health to operate? Food services, daycares and personal services business are just some of the types of businesses that require Fraser Health approval prior to issuance of a business licence from the City. Please contact Fraser Health to discuss their requirements.

Step 6: Find out if you're a “regulated business”

Check with our Bylaw and Licencing Department to see if your business requires approval from a Provincial or Federal regulatory body in order to receive a business licence. Regulated businesses include liquor establishments, pharmacies, motor vehicle dealers, massage therapists and certified trades.