

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Registration Opens for 'Innovation in Emerging Cities' Forum on April 4, 2018

Maple Ridge, BC: As the Canadian economy continues its transformation from resourcebased to knowledge-based; cities have become increasingly important centres for job and wealth creation. Emerging cities, fast-growing communities with highly educated and energized young adults, are uniquely positioned to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Cities with proximity to nature and a variety of lifestyle choices can bring together technology, talent and creativity to drive the new economy.

Maple Ridge will explore these opportunities on Wednesday, April 4 with a FREE day long forum and trade show called 'Innovation in Emerging Cities' that will be a catalyst to foster an innovative and creative culture for industry, government and education.

This forum features keynote presentations from Steve Dotto on "How Technology is Changing Everything" and Dr. Salvador Ferreras on what businesses need to do to prepare for "Industry 4.0." Panel discussions featuring leaders from industry, post-secondary education, First Nations and government will follow these keynote presentations. An additional panel will involve political leaders who will discuss, "How Government Supports Innovation."

Please visit *innovate.mapleridge.ca* to view the full agenda and register for the forum.

For more information on the 'Innovation in Emerging Cities' event please contact Lino Siracusa, Manager of Economic Development for the City of Maple Ridge, by email at <u>Isiracusa@mapleridge.ca</u> or by phone at 604-467-7319