

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Albion Community Centre: Our New, Multi-Use Gathering Place**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On June 22, 2022, the Albion Community Centre (ACC), co-located with c̓əsq̓ənelə Elementary at 24165 104 Avenue, will celebrate its Grand Opening and official ribbon cutting.

“We are thrilled to open this amazing new facility for the Albion community,” said Mayor Morden. This is the culmination of a decade of work with all levels of government to create a social hub to serve as the heart of this fast-growing neighbourhood and is a step closer to building a complete community.”

He continued, “I want to acknowledge the contributions from the Federal and Provincial governments towards this project. The new Albion Community Centre shows what can be achieved when all levels of government share a strong vision for a community facility.”

The City received a \$1 million grant through the Enabling Accessibility Fund from the Federal Government. This funding was instrumental in creating a space with reduced barriers for those with diverse-abilities/disabilities. Features include, but are not limited to, motion automated doors, accessible washroom with a lift, accessible outdoor seating, assisted listening devices, wheelchair and scooter-friendly counter heights and much more.

“The Albion Community Centre is exactly the kind of project our government is proud to support through the Enabling Accessibility Fund. When accessibility and inclusion are part of the plan from the start, everyone can participate in their community, and we are all better off,” said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, MP and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Disability Inclusion.

The City also received a \$1 million grant through the Community Child Care Space Creation program from the Provincial Government, which supported the construction of a dedicated child care space at the ACC. This space, complete with a nap room, outdoor, covered play area and a view of the neighbouring elementary school, will be operated by a non-profit provider offering care for children three to five years of age.

“This grant has helped our partners at the local government level to create new licensed spaces where families need them most,” said Bob D’Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission. “Creating more affordable child care spaces benefits Maple Ridge as a whole, and lets parents pursue work, education and other opportunities, knowing their children are getting access to quality early learning. Together, we are building a future where affordable child care is a core service that’s available to any family that wants it, when they need it.”

The grand opening event on Wednesday, June 22 will run from 5:30 – 8:00 pm with free drop-in sports and fitness classes, playtime activities, roving entertainment, facility tours and an opening ceremony. Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation & Culture will also be joined by the Fire Department, Maple Ridge Public Library, Community Services, Maple Ridge Museum who will be celebrating with additional activities suitable for all ages.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

### **History**

In 1923, volunteers built the historic Albion Hall on 240 Street which served the surrounding neighbourhood for 88 years. The Hall had been modified by the community association over the years and after an extensive building inspection in 2010, it was determined that the building reached its 'end of life' and the decision was made to demolish the old structure.

There was a commitment to introduce a new community gathering space to replace this beloved building. That commitment, combined with the need for a new elementary school to serve the growing Albion community, was the genesis of the Albion Community Centre.

### **New Albion Community Centre Amenities**

- **Social Heart Lobby**

When you enter the ACC's front doors, you'll find yourself in the social heart of the 20,000 square foot building. The wood accents, high ceilings and earthy tones welcome users with a contemporary, bright aesthetic that nods to the surrounding nature. This lobby area is the epicentre of all the ACC has to offer, you can visit the Customer Experience desk, view future art displays and connect with your neighbours.

- **Multi-Use Rooms**

The ACC has three multi-use rooms that are outfitted for a wide variety of recreational, cultural and arts programming. Multi-Use 1 and 2 are separated by a moveable divider so it can be used as one large room or two smaller rooms. The floors are suited for group fitness classes, social programs and other programming for all ages. Multi-Use 3 has a view of the nearby elementary school and is equipped with a sink, plenty of cabinetry and an easy-to-clean floor that can handle mess from arts and children's programming. The back walls of both rooms are lined with windows that give a view of the trail system and can open on sunny days.

- **Teaching Kitchen**

With three service windows that open to the social heart lobby, outdoors and Great Hall, this kitchen is equipped to serve the entire facility in more ways than one. The space is perfect for both culinary programming and for providing food and drink during events!

- **Great Hall**

The Great Hall features angled, wooden ceiling beams, multi-purpose floors, a moveable stage and built-in sound system. This space can host up to 300 people at a time for events, conferences, plays, and performances, but can also be used for recreational programming. The floors are lined with three courts suited for sports like pickleball and badminton! With access to the kitchen through a service window and a garage door that opens to the outdoor amphitheater, the Great Hall holds the potential to become a venue of choice for residents and visitors alike.

- **Outdoor Amphitheatre**

Perfect for outdoor performances and events in the warmer months, the Outdoor Amphitheatre is an exciting new addition for our arts community. The concrete seating area and direct access to the surrounding trail system can also be explored during children's and youth programming.

### **Visit the Albion Community Centre**

The ACC is currently open to the public with limited drop-in activities and facility tours available. For more details about registered and drop-in programming, facility features and full details regarding the Grand Opening, visit [mapleridge.ca/2536](http://mapleridge.ca/2536).