

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2022 #22-13

For further information, contact:
communications@mapleridge.ca

Aquatic Facility Closed Until Further Notice for Full Inspection

Maple Ridge, BC: Last week, one of the pools in the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre's aquatic facility was closed when tiny, metal wires were discovered in the water. The maintenance team suspected that this might be residue from cables connected to the decommissioned overhead speaker system; as a result, the pool was drained and given a thorough cleaning and magnetic sweeps to remove any remaining particles.

On Monday, staff discovered additional metal wires in the lane pool, leisure pool and hot tub; out of an abundance of caution for our staff and customers, the decision was made to close all pools until the source of the debris is confirmed and remedied.

"I recognize that this has a significant impact to those who use the pool for therapy, swimming lessons, our swim clubs and casual users who are looking to escape this hot weather," said PRC General Manager Stephane Labonne. "The safety of our staff and customers is the highest priority which means that the facility must unfortunately stay closed until we have a definitive answer on the source of the metal contamination, necessary repairs are made and the pools are clear of debris. This is the highest priority for our facilities team."

In February 2020, the indoor aquatics facility reopened after a two-year closure for renovations. This was done in a phased approach consistent with the changing public health orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The current issue with metal debris is unrelated to the work done during the renovation.

This emergency closure has sparked conversations around the availability of aquatic facilities in Maple Ridge. The City is developing a new Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan to determine a long-term plan that will support facility, service and programming needs for our citizens. We encourage citizens to get engaged in that process and to share their ideas, whether it be additional

aquatic facilities or other amenities for our growing community. You can engage in that process at mapleridge.ca/2635.

Updates on the current issues at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre aquatics facility will be provided on the City's Facebook Page (facebook.com/yourmapleridge) and posted to the indoor pool page (mapleridge.ca/1452). Customers who are impacted by missed lessons or paid-for programming will be reimbursed. We will be working with our customers to reschedule sessions that are impacted by the closure and investigation and thank the community for their patience and understanding.