

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Engage Maple Ridge Platform Launches with Contest and New Park Consultation

Maple Ridge, BC: Residents of Maple Ridge have a new way to connect and share feedback on city matters through Engage Maple Ridge, a new online community engagement platform.

Engage Maple Ridge, available at <https://engage.mapleridge.ca>, provides a range of options for feedback and discussion. The platform encourages residents to learn about City initiatives and connect with staff and neighbours on a variety of projects. Engage Maple Ridge provides the City a deeper understanding of the citizens' priorities and helps to ensure a consistent approach to community engagement across the organization.

"Meaningful engagement with the community is a key priority for our Council," said Mayor Dan Ruimy. He continued, "This new digital platform makes it easier for residents to have their say on issues that matter to them, anytime of day and from any place with their mobile devices. Engage Maple Ridge will capture citizen feedback to help inform Council's decisions on a variety of matters, from how our community will grow and develop to the design of new park spaces."

The platform includes a variety of tools, such as surveys, short polls and discussion forums. A key feature is that residents can sign up for updates on the projects that interest them as a public consultation moves through various stages and to reach out to City staff leading the engagement.

"I encourage everyone in our community to sign up and be part of this new engagement platform," added Mayor Ruimy "Your input is very important to all of us around the Council table."

Current and Upcoming Engagements

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the platform's first community consultation on a new park that will be built on a one-acre property at the end of Pazarena Place in the South Haney neighbourhood. There is a survey available for that project now until February 28, 2023. Project details can be found at <https://engage.mapleridge.ca/ppp>.

In the coming months, Engage Maple Ridge will be hosting community consultations on important policy development items such as short-term accommodations, secondary suites and other matters of public interest.

Register for a Chance to Win!

To encourage residents to get involved, they can enter to win one of two \$100 gift cards from a local business of their choice when they register for Engage Maple Ridge by March 31, 2023.

Citizens can also enter a photo contest by March 3, 2023, submitting images that highlight the beauty of Maple Ridge from their unique perspectives. There will be four winners selected based on community “likes” (or upvotes), each of whom will win a \$50 or gift card from a local business of their choice.

Engage Maple Ridge Just One Tool in the City’s Engagement Toolbox

This new digital platform is one of many methods where residents can share their input on City matters. The City continues to use a variety of methods from direct mail, local advertising and in-person outreach to ensure Council has the feedback they need to make decisions throughout their term.

The City is currently developing a Community Engagement Framework to ensure that how, when and why the City engages with the public is consistent, accessible and inclusive and that diverse perspectives are encouraged and considered in the City’s decision-making processes. The City looks forward to sharing the new framework and seeking feedback from the public upon completion.

If you have any questions about Engage Maple Ridge, please email Pardeep Purewal (Senior Manager, Corporate Communications and Public Engagement) at ppurewal@mapleridge.ca.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Screen capture of the Engage Maple Ridge home page.

