



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE  
NEWS RELEASE

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**Maple Ridge Announces Mayor's Task Force on Climate Change at City's "Climate Action Summit"**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Reflecting the City of Maple Ridge's commitment to climate leadership and environmental stewardship, Mayor Dan Ruimy has announced plans to establish a Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action.

The announcement came at the City's "Climate Action Summit" which concluded this afternoon at the Albion Community Centre. The City of Maple Ridge heard from a range of local, regional and provincial elected officials, municipal climate experts, and members of the public attending the day-long summit.

"I want to thank everyone who took part in our first leadership summit and for your inspiring contributions," said Mayor Ruimy. "This will help Council and City staff understand where we can play an important role with action to address climate change, such as modernizing our bylaws while creating a strategic pathway to meet our climate adaptation and mitigation goals. Recognizing the need to act decisively, I am pleased to announce that we will be striking a Mayor's Task Force to develop policy recommendations and establish Maple Ridge as a leader among local governments in addressing climate change."

Led by Mayor Ruimy, the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action will include other city councillors, community members, and experts in climate change. Details about the task force, including the names of members, their duties and expected term of service will be announced in coming days.

A Priorities and Action Plan resulting from today's discussions at the Climate Action Summit will provide an effective launching pad for the Mayor's Task Force as it begins its work.

"I was pleased to attend today to show strong support along with my provincial colleagues, including the Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy," said Lisa Beare, MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows. "Climate change impacts everyone and it was important to be part of the innovative discussions that took place at today's Summit. The province recognizes the need to work with

local municipalities for true action on climate change.”

“I applaud the City of Maple Ridge for focusing on local solutions to addressing climate change,” said Bob D’Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission. “This Summit is a signal of the importance of this issue to the City and how to approach engagement with community, stakeholders and members of the public. I look forward to the future action plan and to continue working together in my role as MLA to help make a difference in Maple Ridge.”

The Honourable George Heyman, BC’s Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy opened the summit as the keynote speaker, followed by remarks from Dr. Alison Shaw, Executive Director of the Climate Action Team (ACT) at Simon Fraser University. Both joined a panel session with former City of Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, FortisBC’s Director of Renewable Gas & Low Carbon Fuels Dave Bennett, Maple Ridge Mayor Dan Ruimy and moderated by CKNW Talk Show host Jas Johal.

Today’s Climate Action Summit was the first of three Leadership Summits planned this year by the Mayor and Council. Affordable Housing and Economic Development will be the topics at the centre of the next two City of Maple Ridge summits, which are currently in the planning stage.

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