



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Recreation and Culture Facilities Close Based on BCCDC Recommendation

Maple Ridge, BC: The City's recreation and culture facilities will close, effective March 17, 2020*, until further notice and pending further updates from Provincial and local health authorities. This decision has been made in response to the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) directive to limit public gatherings to a maximum of 50 in an effort to minimize the transmission of COVID-19. Current closures include:

Maple Ridge Leisure Centre, including swimming pools
Greg Moore Youth Centre
Planet Ice - Maple Ridge *effective March 16 at 6:00 pm
Municipal Special Events *will be cancelled until June 2020

Fraser Valley Regional Library announced that all locations will be closed effective Monday, March 16. The ACT Arts Centre has also confirmed their closure until further notice.

Spring break camps and licensed child care programs will continue to operate, subject to guidelines from public health authorities, in an effort to provide ongoing support for families who rely on child care and/or children's programs.

City Hall will remain open for regular business however access to services may be limited to meet BCCDC guidelines. Enhanced protocols are in place to sanitize common areas which, combined with hand washing and social distancing, will keep the risk of transmission in our facilities low. Staff are limiting social contact with clients, reducing meetings and are encouraged to work remotely where appropriate.

"The City's leadership team is working diligently to ensure we are implementing the Province's recommendations on COVID-19, and that we have a plan in place to manage the impacts to our organization and community as the situation evolves," said Mayor Morden.

"Our community has an important role to play in minimizing the spread of this virus. I would like to ask every Maple Ridge resident and business to follow the advice that has been provided by our health authorities. We understand this can be a stressful time for you and your loved ones. Be a good neighbour, check in with relatives and help out where you can. Following the BCCDC's recommendations will reduce the overall impact on our community," he concluded.

The City's Emergency Operations Centre has been activated at level one to ensure mechanisms are in place to maintain delivery of core services such as police, fire, water, sewer and maintenance of facilities.

Provincial Medical Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, is leading the team of medical professionals who are coordinating the response to the COVID-19 situation in BC. They are working closely with their colleagues across Canada and around the world to inform decision making. The City will continue to act based on the advice of Dr. Henry and her team.

The definitive source of information on the COVID-19 response is the [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\)](#) and the [Fraser Health Authority](#).

Citizens who are concerned about their exposure to COVID-19 are encouraged to call 8-1-1 or 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300

The situation continues to change and the City will provide local updates at [mapleridge.ca](#) as they become available.

Additional sources of information include:

[The Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[The World Health Organization](#)