

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Annual Community Leaders Forum Moves Online**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The City of Maple Ridge will hold its second annual Community Leaders Forum next month and transition to an online format due to COVID-19. The event, organized by the City's Economic Development Department, will take place on December 10 via Zoom.

"While we had initially planned to hold this year's Forum in person, moving to a virtual format comes with some great benefits," said Wendy Dupley, Director of Economic Development. "It allows for broader community participation and greater accessibility, as the event will be recorded and posted for on-demand viewing on our website."

The 2020 edition of the Forum will focus on how levels of government can work with business and community leaders to help Maple Ridge recover from the effects of the pandemic. It will also explore ways to create a vibrant, sustainable local economy for the future.

Brock Dickinson, an Entrepreneur in Residence and Adjunct Professor at the University of Waterloo, will serve as the keynote speaker and moderator. Mr. Dickinson is widely regarded as one of Canada's leading speakers on economic development. The event will also feature a panel discussion with Mayor Mike Morden, MP Marc Dalton and MLAs Lisa Beare and Bob D'Eith.

The Community Leaders Forum is one of the signature events in the City's 'Innovation in Emerging Cities' series, which also includes the Innovation in Emerging Cities Forum and the Career and Education Fair. The goal of these events is to foster a culture of innovation in Maple Ridge by supporting entrepreneurship and promoting collaboration between businesses, post-secondary institutions and all levels of government.

For more information or to register, visit [mapleridge.ca/157](https://mapleridge.ca/157).