

Message from Mayor



On behalf of Council, I am very pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report which provides an overview of our financial performance for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. This suite of publications and online tools represent Council's commitment of transparency and accountability to our citizens.

At the beginning of 2019 Council established our four year Strategic Plan. Below are the five pillars of our vision for a strong and resilient community;

Community Safety: Ensure that citizens feel safe and are not afraid to engage in their community, that criminal activity is prevented or minimized, that people who need services can access them easily, that agencies understand and are accountable for their role and that all of this occurs within the capacity of local first responders and service providers.

Intergovernmental Relations: Build strong relationships with the region, other levels of government and local First Nations to set a foundation for problem solving and innovation to achieve defined strategic results.

Growth: Implement strategic plans related to local infrastructure and the economy including commercial and industrial land base, transportation corridors, transit, neighbourhood plans and key amenities.

Community Pride & Spirit: Engage the public in positive activities as participants and as volunteers to enhance the vibrancy of the community

Natural Environment: Be alert to opportunities to care for the natural environment, to mitigate impacts on wildlife and to utilize natural assets to grow eco-tourism opportunities.

As we are compiling the information for this Annual Report our community, as with the global community, is in the midst of COVID-19. The work we did in 2019 on each of these five pillars helped our organization build capacity and resilience to deal with the short and long term impacts of the pandemic.

In 2019 we welcomed a new CAO, Al Horsman, to lead our organization as we continue our evolution from a 'small town' to a fast growing urban City. This report reflects the organizational realignment that was made to ensure we can embrace the challenges and opportunities in these unprecedented times.

I want to take the opportunity to thank staff for their work to deliver essential services and initiatives that align with Council's vision for Maple Ridge. Approximately 70% of staff are residents of our community which means that together we can better position our City for success and ensure the health and safety of our neighbours and our families.

In this moment everyone is dealing with the consequences of the pandemic, however we are optimistic that our community will emerge from these challenges stronger and better due to the strength of our citizens and the prudent financial planning outlined in this report.

Thank you for taking the time to review our Annual Report.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Morden', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Mike Morden

Message from CAO



I am proud to present the 2019 Annual Report for the City of Maple Ridge, reflecting our financial position as of December 31, 2019. In addition, there is a great deal of information that provides background on how we deliver on Council's Strategic Plan, outlined by Mayor Morden in his introduction.

Throughout 2019, we continued to work towards a multi-year community amenity plan that has seen new sports fields and parks open, providing space for citizens to gather and live healthy lifestyles. We have also made substantial investments in essential infrastructure, including work on the new fire hall and utility upgrades.

Clean water, sanitary sewer systems, storm water management, fire and police services represent the essential services provided by local governments. During preparation of this Report the global COVID-19 pandemic struck. While citizens stayed home and did their part to reduce the transmission risk of COVID-19, our dedicated team ensured uninterrupted delivery of these core services.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mayor and Council for their leadership and support. I would also like to convey my appreciation to City staff for the work they do every day to serve citizens and their commitment to advancing Council's vision for Maple Ridge.

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. I encourage you to visit [mapleridge.ca](https://www.mapleridge.ca) to access the Open Government Portal, along with other online reports and presentations to learn more about our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Horsman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Al Horsman
Chief Administrative Officer