

MAPLE RIDGE COUNCIL QUARTERLY UPDATE

ADDRESSING COVID-19

First, and foremost, we are all in this together. We have flattened the curve with the leadership of our public health experts including Dr. Bonnie Henry. There are no politics in our response to COVID-19. Leaders from all levels of government came together to take the steps necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19. This will be with us for a while. Don't stop doing the right things! Your City is doing business differently in response to the pandemic. Essential services continue

throughout the pandemic and we continue to adapt our business practices in response to Stage 3 of the BC Restart Plan. Your Council has changed the property tax deadline to September 30, 2020 as well as moving the tax sale deadline into 2021 to ensure families have time to gain greater financial stability. Council has not missed one meeting through the use of new virtual meeting tools to ensure transparency in decision making. Council has approved an

expedited patio approval process for local hospitality businesses. As we continue to work together to flatten the curve on COVID-19, Council would like to thank all of the front line workers, police, fire, BC Ambulance Service, health care workers and all those who work to ensure we have food on our tables and the essential goods we need for our families. Thank you Maple Ridge for your continued work to fight this pandemic. We will get through this.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY HIGHLIGHTS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Throughout the pandemic there has been unprecedented communication between our City and province. Mayor Morden and Council would like to thank MLAs Bob D'Eith and Minister Lisa Beare for their collaboration and advocacy. In this crisis there have been strong relationships formed to help our community move forward. Key work delivered since the beginning of the year includes:

- Advocating for demonstration project for Maple Ridge to address urban social pressures.
- Lougheed Highway Rapid Bus (R3)

- Development of the new commuter parking lot at the Haney Bus Loop
- Enhanced Council accountability through policy updates:
 - Council Conduct Bylaw
 - Council Correspondence Policy
 - Council Training Conferences & Associations Policy
 - Corporate Communications & Community Engagement Policy

COMMUNITY PRIDE & SPIRIT

As we have had to stay separated to stop the spread of COVID-19, the City of Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation & Culture Team have been working to keep us safe and connected with innovative new virtual events and the phased reopening of facilities. Here are the highlights for the first part of 2020:

- Virtual Canada Day celebration July 1
- Implemented the Parks Ambassador Program (First in BC)
- Collaboration with School District No. 42 on a special Grad 2020 salute
- Safe reopening of sports courts, fields, playgrounds, spray park and the Hammond Outdoor Pool

- Secured the BC Summer Games for 2024
- Patio Sidewalks & Outdoor Seating to support COVID impacted businesses
- Natural Environment
- Our natural spaces in Maple Ridge have become a place of refuge and relaxation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your Council has been busy with work to protect and enhance our natural environment including:
 - New Education & Enforcement Program to protect wildlife
 - Noxious Weeds Program
 - Advancing the Climate Action planning



COMMUNITY SAFETY

As the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, there were programs implemented at the beginning of the year that helped Maple Ridge pivot into providing local support for the Provincial Public Health response. Our Bylaws Team were able to leverage new radios and the Community Safety Officers to help ensure that public health orders were being followed. Here are some key projects delivered since the beginning of the year:

- Community Social Safety Initiative (CSSI) rollout
 - Hired Manager for CSSI Team
 - Recruited and deployed four Community Safety Officers (CSO)
- Enforcement & Education Initiatives
 - Safer Streets?
 - Aggressive Panhandling
 - Graffiti Tagging
 - Unsightly & Derelict Properties
- Enhanced Collaboration
 - Alouette Addictions, connecting CSOs and Outreach Workers
 - BC Housing
 - Building relationships & trust to BRING better compliance
- Dementia Friendly Community Plan

GROWTH

Maple Ridge is one of the fastest growing communities in the region. Your Council has advanced a number of important initiatives and projects to address the demands of this rapid growth. They include:

- Continued work to improve our service delivery to support the construction industry
- Continued to support construction industry through COVID-19 pandemic as an essential service

- All Council meetings and approvals continued on schedule
- Approved Rideshare Bylaw
- Approved New Sign Bylaw
- Implemented new 'Virtual office Assistant' Chat bot
- Approved the Construction of the Albion Community Centre
- Completed the Construction of Beckett Park in Port Haney

LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE UPDATE

Mayor Morden, on behalf of Council, has recorded a short video presentation with highlights of the Council Quarterly Update. It can be found at mapleridge.ca/2369 along with links to the presentation materials from the July 28 Council agenda. In addition, there's a link to the detailed staff update provided to Council on July 7, 2020. That

link is also on the Council Strategic Plan landing page. Council would like your feedback on this new way of delivering these updates. You can email them at mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca with your comments and suggestions. Council would like to thank citizens, businesses and the staff at City Hall for their efforts and commitment in flattening the curve of COVID-19

and their resiliency and strength through the last few months. Mayor and Council ask that you all continue to do your part to keep our families safe. Council will resume their meeting schedule in September after a short break. Please have a safe summer, and in the words of Dr. Henry, be kind, be calm and be safe.