



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
NEWS RELEASE

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Nominate Your Business by Sept. 24 for Maple Ridge's Innovation Challenge

Maple Ridge, B.C: Has your Maple Ridge business developed an outstanding product, process or service?

The City has launched its third annual Innovation Challenge, with a focus on new products, processes or services that have performed beyond expectations and added value and profit to a business, such as increased efficiency, savings or sales.

Licensed Maple Ridge businesses of any type, size or location in the community have until Sept. 24 to submit their ideas to mapleridge.ca/innovation for a chance to win cash prizes up to \$4,000.

“Innovations are created by sharing and learning, challenging and verifying, testing and trying, and by crossing boundaries together,” said Tyler Westover, Director of Economic Development. “This is the goal of the 2023 Innovation Challenge. We want to highlight the local entrepreneurs who have crafted and perfected their business concept over time to fill a niche in our fast-growing community.”

The City launched the annual Innovation Challenges in 2021 to celebrate and support the success of local businesses and organizations. Previous winners included the Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie Seniors Network for best COVID-19 Adaptation Innovation, and Pitt Meadows Plumbing and Mechanical Systems for Best Innovative Culture Program.

Nominate by Sept. 24

This year, the City is seeking nominations for a local business that has developed in the last two years:

- A successful product with high sales,
- A process that has resulted in savings of some sort, such as costs, time or energy, or
- A service that has brought in increased profit or customers.

Anyone can make a nomination but the prize will go to the business, which must be located in Maple Ridge and have a current business licence. All sectors and sizes of businesses are eligible.

Winners will receive \$4,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place and \$1,000 for third place.

Joining the City of Maple Ridge as this year's sponsors are Ridge Meadows College, MLA Lisa Beare, MLA Bob D'Eith, the Rotary Club of Haney, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

"I want to thank our sponsors for their investment in honouring the innovative businesses in our community and celebrating the incredible entrepreneurship in Maple Ridge," Westover said.

Selecting the Winners

Following the contest's Sept. 24 application deadline, the City's Economic Development staff will narrow down entries to six finalists, who will be asked to submit a video of one to two minutes summarizing their business and the details of their innovation.

The videos can be shot on a phone and do not need to be professionally produced. Finalists will be notified Sept. 26 and have until Oct. 10 to submit their video.

The judging panel will include the two MLAs, Mayor and Council, and a representative of Ridge Meadows College. The winner will be announced later in October, close to when the City will hold its Economic Development Summit and recognize Small Business Week.

An application form and detailed guide are posted at mapleridge.ca/innovation. Questions may be directed to Karen Hansen at khansen@mapleridge.ca.