



*Deep Roots
Greater Heights*

District of Maple Ridge News Release

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For further information, call:
Sandy Blue @ 604-467-7319
sblue@mapleridge.ca

Economic Advisory Commission Appoints New Chair

Kicking off its 2009/2010 session, the twelve-member Maple Ridge Economic Advisory Commission (EAC) appointed a new Chair and Vice-chair. Mike Shardlow, President and CEO of Canada Place Corporation was nominated the new Chair; and Bruce West of BDC was appointed Vice-Chair. Both are residents of Maple Ridge with a strong interest in growing the local economy.

“Maple Ridge is poised for unprecedented growth” says Shardlow. “As Chair of the EAC, I look forward to supporting Council's desire to seize on the economic and employment opportunities presented by the improved transportation corridors while ensuring protection of the character and community values of Maple Ridge.”

The purpose of the EAC is to advise Council on matters relating to the economic well being of Maple Ridge. This includes making recommendations to Council and the District's Economic Development Department, with a view to positively influencing the local business climate, facilitating economic growth and providing guidance to the community on economic development issues.

The Maple Ridge economic strategy, which was adopted by Council in 2006, identifies key sectors for investment attraction as advanced technology, education and tourism. Ultimately, the goal is to attract commercial and industrial investment in these key areas, thereby creating high value local jobs.

Over the coming months the EAC will explore how best to ensure that the community is ready for this investment and that investors are aware of the opportunity here.

To that end, the EAC, together with the staff at Maple Ridge Economic Development office is hosting an Economic Summit on October 29. The Summit, “2009 Maple Ridge Economic Summit – Best Practices for Connected Communities” is designed to appeal to industry, government and community stakeholders as well as academics and investors to hear from subject matter experts as they share their knowledge about creating a vibrant ‘connected community’. For information or to register for the day-long event visit www.primestrategies.ca/mapleridge.html.

In addition to Shardlow and West, Commissioners for the 2009/2010 year include, Mayor Ernie Daykin, Councillors Al Hogarth and Mike Morden, Nicole Breuls, Steve Pelton, Racine Barbour (Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association), Roger Welch (Arts Council), Oliver Perez (Chamber of Commerce), and Pat Kramer (Tourism).