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February 28, 2022

Honourable Minister Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Sent via email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Dix,

At their February 22, 2022 regular meeting, Maple Ridge Council considered the impact that restricted access to health and fitness facilities can have on a person's mental health and sense of well-being, and passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Maple Ridge recognizes the negative impact on mental health caused by social isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic and the mental and physical benefits of recreation for our citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor request the provincial Minister of Health allow all individuals access to civic recreation facilities paid for and maintained by their tax dollars without restrictions in order to minimize social isolation and promote positive mental health, with a carbon copy to the UBCM and other BC Municipalities.

In April-May 2021 the Province conducted a survey asking British Columbians about the impact COVID- 19 has had on their lives. Of the 394,382 respondents, nearly 47% said they had seen their mental health worsen due to the pandemic.

The programs delivered at our public facilities reduce isolation, promote community pride, increase self-esteem, build connected communities and strengthen family bonds.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the City has supported and followed all public health orders and WorkSafe BC requirements to ensure our civic facilities remain safe. With the recent lifting of many capacity restrictions and the acknowledgement that recreation contributes to ones mental and physical health we ask that public facilities be open to all citizens to allow equal opportunity to recreate.

Sincerely,



Mike Morden
Mayor

cc: MLA Lisa Beare, Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows
MLA Bob D'Eith, Maple Ridge – Mission
Union of BC Municipalities
Maple Ridge City Council

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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