



Dear City of Maple Ridge Mayor and Council,

I am writing to express my concern about the safety of our community regarding the rampant open drug use in municipal parks and public spaces. As a business organization, I am concerned about the impact of drug use on the local business community in Maple Ridge. It is unfortunate that the presence of drug users and drug paraphernalia in public spaces is creating an unwelcoming environment that is causing people to feel uncomfortable and scared to walk through parks and the downtown core where a lot of our businesses reside.

This issue poses significant health and safety risks to individuals, including accidental overdoses, increased risk of infectious disease transmission, and increased crime and violence rates. The presence of drug paraphernalia can also create hazardous conditions for children and families who use public spaces for recreational activities.

I strongly urge the City of Maple Ridge to take action to address this pressing issue. One potential solution is to enact a prohibition of illicit drug use in all city parks and outdoor public gathering spaces. I believe this policy would send a clear message that drug use is not tolerated and would help to create a safer environment not only for businesses but the entire community.

I acknowledge that implementing such a policy involves careful consideration of various factors, so I urge the City of Maple Ridge to involve stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to address drug use in public spaces.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. I hope that the City of Maple Ridge addresses this pressing issue and helps create a safer and healthier community for all.

Sincerely,

Kristi Maier, Executive director