

Update on Filming Fees for 2025

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives the report titled “Update on Filming Fees for 2025” dated March 25, 2025, for information.

Report Purpose and Summary Statement:

This report provides an overview of proposed updates to fees related to film productions filming in Maple Ridge. The fees and charges support revenue generation from providing access to Maple Ridge facilities and amenities to production companies and networks producing film and television projects.

Previous Council Action:

Council adopted the Maple Ridge Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7573-2019 in 2020 to bring most departmental fees under one bylaw. Council received a related staff report on fees for police services and general administration on March 4, 2025, and an update on Recreation Services Fees on March 25, 2025. Council noted in those staff reports that updates would be brought forward on 2025 fees and charges and a consolidated bylaw amendment would follow these updates.

Financial Impact:

Increases in fees and charges for filming represents an opportunity to recover more revenue and offset staff time provided in support of productions in Maple Ridge. Following analysis, it is clear that Maple Ridge is in high demand for film and television productions, but fees are not currently well aligned with other municipalities.

Strategic Alignment:

Diversified, Thriving Economy; Governance & Corporate Excellence

Applicable Legislation/Bylaw/Policy:

Maple Ridge Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7573-2019. The Maple Ridge Filming Policy No. 30.40 was updated in 2023 and is under review in 2025. Updates to these filming fees will ensure consistency between the intent of the policy and the bylaw.

To: Mayor and Council

File number: [13-6760-01]

Update on Filming Fees for 2025

BACKGROUND:

The Maple Ridge Amending Bylaw No. 7978-2023 outlines a fee schedule for costs related to film and television productions in the city that amended and added filming fees to the Maple Ridge Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7575-2019. The Maple Ridge Filming Policy No. 30.40 was updated in 2023 and will also be updated in 2025.

Council consolidated fees and charges for several areas of city operations under Maple Ridge Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7575-2019. Bylaw No. 7575-2019 was last updated in January 2024 to add schedule for Filming Fees.

ANALYSIS:

Discussion:

Staff have undertaken a review of fees and charges across city departments in late 2024-early 2025. Considerations have informed adjustments to fees and charges in several areas including inflationary adjustments and adjustments related to improved cost recovery and revenue generation.

Staff have sought to maintain a balance between accessibility of city services while also ensuring that cost recovery occurs at a reasonable level appropriate for each service area. For example, some services are more heavily subsidized because of the public benefit provided, such as recreation services where provision of these services ensures an engaged and healthy community in line with Council's priorities for its Strategic Plan. In other areas, individuals receiving services benefit financially and directly from the services e.g., filming permit fees that enable profit from sale of TV shows and movies, and as such services may have a higher ratio of cost recovery or even revenue generation to offset other city cost centres. The proposed changes to fees and charges for filming services have also been assessed relative to industry standards for filming on public and private property to understand the likely impact of the changes on film attraction for the City.

Maple Ridge is a popular filming destination for its natural assets and amenities, and this has driven a significant increase in productions choosing the city. Through transparent regulation, development, and collaboration with the City, local community, and productions working together as project-based teams to create "movie magic", Maple Ridge ranks fourth in BC contributing 6.5% to the province's on-location filming activities. The city annually hosts around 110 productions, 300 permits, and 350-400 shooting days, all without a film studio, relying solely on tangible locations.

Key changes to fees in this updated schedule include:

- Reducing fees for small productions or removing fees for student and non-profit productions to incentivise creative arts for these groups.
- Better distinguishing fee levels to advise base level fees applicable to all production types and grouping other fees by level of production (scale) to make them easier to understand for users.
- Increasing fees for medium and larger productions to recognize the greater impact of their filming activities on the community, improved cost recovery and revenue generation within industry standards.
- Introducing new penalty fees for productions that wilfully break the conditions of the filming permits and cause harm or disruption to the community.
- Introducing a higher cost expedited permit fee for productions that provide less than five business days notice of filming when making their bookings.
- Bringing fees closer to, or above, other municipal comparators as other municipalities have been obtaining on average 20% -110% more revenue from fees than Maple Ridge.
- Setting fees at levels that will improve revenue without disincentivizing Maple Ridge as an attractive filming destination in the Lower Mainland.
- Aligning fees to the longer-term economic development strategy for the creative industries.

Staff undertook sensitivity analysis for the cumulative impact of changes on different types of film production to ensure that the new fees proposed do not create an undue burden on production attraction. Also, analysis was undertaken of municipal comparators to inform the sensitivity modelling.

Sustainability/Climate Impact:

In 2024, electrical kiosks were installed to improve sustainable power generation at one of the key filming locations along Haney Bypass. One of the changes in the fee schedule for 2025 is to improve cost recovery for this amenity at this location.

Strategic Alignment:

Encouraging film and television production is a core element of Council's Strategic Priority – Diversified, Thriving Economy. The city is a sought-after location for the industry and generates profile and tourism revenue as well as direct revenue.

Financial Impact:

Filming is one of the discretionary areas of business in the city. As such, it provides an opportunity to both offset costs from supporting film and television productions (e.g., shutting down roads, fire and police safety supports) and to generate revenue from providing power and locations that support film productions.

Applicable Legislation/Bylaw/Policy:

Filming fees and charges are included in the schedules for Maple Ridge Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7573-2019. This report outlines how new and updated fees will be included in a revised

Schedule "F" for the bylaw, to improve both cost recovery and revenue generation while still maintaining Maple Ridge as an attractive location for film and television productions.

CONCLUSION:

This report presents proposed changes to fees and charges for filming services in 2025. It forms part of a series of reports to update the "Maple Ridge Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 7573-2019", ensuring departmental fees and charges are aligned, transparent and support improved cost recovery and revenue generation.

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Attachments: (A) Attachment A – Proposed Filming Fees for 2025

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Update on Filming Fees for 2025.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment A – Proposed Filming Fees for 2025.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 26, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Walter Oleschak, Director of City Operations/Acting Chief Operating Officer

Carolyn Mushata, Director of Legislative Services and Corporate Officer

Scott Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer