



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Provincial Government Offers to Fund Temporary Shelter in Maple Ridge**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Earlier today Maple Ridge MLA Marc Dalton made a series of tweets following a meeting with BC's Minister of Housing, Rich Coleman. The most important tweet confirms that the Province of BC will fund a temporary shelter in Maple Ridge, a move that will be a key component to resolving the Cliff Avenue camp.

"I'm relieved that we are finally able to talk about this publically. We have been working behind the scenes with BC Housing for several weeks to make this possible. I'd like to acknowledge the assistance of MLA Doug Bing, who met with us again on July 3, 2015 where we discussed this solution. This announcement clearly indicates that our local MLAs have been working for our community behind the scenes," said Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read. "Right now we are supporting BC Housing to find a location that will allow us to move unsheltered citizens off Cliff Avenue into a safe temporary shelter. This will provide the stability that our outreach workers need to help connect these citizens with lasting health care and housing," she added."

"The offer to fund a temporary shelter is a key part of ending the Cliff Avenue camp permanently and living up to the goals that we have to help our unsheltered citizens. We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the patience and resilience of the residents and business owners on Cliff Avenue as we have worked towards this solution. We have reached an important milestone in ending the Cliff Avenue camp,' said Mayor Read. "The City will continue to provide updates as they become available. The advocacy of our local MLAs ,MLAs, the commitment of Minister Coleman and the ongoing support of BC Housing have been critical in getting this solution finalized. Our community is grateful for this news."