



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Maple Ridge Council Moves to End “Dysfunction” in Service Provision Ecosystem

Maple Ridge, BC: Maple Ridge Council, by resolution, has asked BC Housing to work towards ending its shelter contract with the Salvation Army’s “Caring Place”. Mayor Read stated “Council has advised the Salvation Army of our decision and expressed heartfelt thanks for their years of service to our community. We’re striving to create a service provision ecosystem based on concrete results. We’re looking at the outcomes for every dollar spent by service providers on this issue in the community, their performance metrics, and their impact on the surrounding neighbourhoods. We at this time feel we need a different shelter provider, and a number of us have raised concerns about the shelter model in general. What we have seen in the conversations in the community is that our citizens have lost faith in the Salvation Army as well. It is time to act.”

In conjunction, Council has also asked that BC Housing review its service agreement with Alouette Home Start Society in relation to the operation of Alouette Heights, and to amend the agreement to better meet the needs of the community, with needs to be identified by Maple Ridge Council. Council is committed to working with BC Housing to identify new infrastructure and services to support our goals as a City.

Since mid-May, the City of Maple Ridge has faced significant attention as a result of the homeless camp that set up along the residential street of Cliff Avenue. This camp has required the investment of significant municipal resources and has caused immeasurable strain for Cliff Avenue’s businesses and residents.

The City will release details on the location and timing of the temporary shelter later this week. The temporary 6-month shelter will create the alternative to homelessness required for the City to disperse the Cliff Avenue camp.

“The encampment is a symptom of the problem this community is facing, that for too long was ignored”, said Read, “We’re working to address it as quickly as possible, but we’re not taking our eyes off the conditions that got us here in the first place. Where there is dysfunction in our service provision ecosystem, we’re willing to stand in the pocket and fight those battles for this community. We now have the right players and funding at the table to work towards improvement on the immediate issues and build long terms solutions and we continue to be grateful to Minister Rich Coleman, MLA Doug Bing and Marc Dalton and the staff at BC Housing for their support in working with our community. ”