



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Seeks Additional Information on Ambulance Allocations

Maple Ridge, BC: On Friday, February 5, the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) released a report with supporting documents relating to ambulance services in BC. As part of the media briefing, BCEHS advised that eight ambulances and 34 paramedics had been added in the Lower Mainland to improve emergency response times. Maple Ridge was not one of them.

"I was surprised to learn that eight new ambulances were added in the Lower Mainland and none were allocated to our community. I had the opportunity to speak with BCEHS Executive Vice-President Linda Lupini this afternoon to express my concern and explore the basis for the decision. She agreed to supply some background data used to support the allocations and reassured me that BCEHS is carefully tracking response times in Maple Ridge," said Mayor Nicole Read. "I look forward to reviewing the data once it is received."

Mayor Read continued, "A petition with over 8,000 signatures is an indication of the level of concern in this community surrounding ambulance response times. This week, our Member of Parliament for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, Dan Ruimy, thanked Matt Kelso in the House of Commons for his work in organizing the petition. I know that our MLAs, Dr. Doug Bing and Marc Dalton have been championing this issue. I want to assure citizens that we are reviewing this decision carefully. I did not want us to head into the 'Family Day' weekend without sending a strong message that we are committed to following up on this issue.