



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date March 29, 2016 #16-13

For further information, contact:  
Ted Swabey, CAO at 604-463-5221  
[tswabey@mapleridge.ca](mailto:tswabey@mapleridge.ca)

## **Statement Regarding the Cancellation of the BC Housing Proposal to Purchase the Quality Inn**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Monday, March, 28 the City of Maple Ridge was informed BC Housing has rescinded its offer to purchase the Quality Inn to develop a supportive housing facility. BC Housing is now proposing to extend the lease for shelter spaces at the existing temporary facility operated by RainCity Housing until June 30, 2016.

As background, BC Housing informed the City on February 29, 2016 it would make an offer to purchase the Quality Inn on Lougheed Highway as well as fund an operating agreement with RainCity Housing to provide professional management and services. The proposal was to replace the temporary shelter beds at the former Sleep Shop location, which were scheduled to close on March 31, 2016.

Today, Rich Coleman, Minister Responsible for Housing, announced the Province has revised its plans and will now provide approximately \$15 million in capital and operating funding for a permanent facility at another location. The City welcomes the announcement and is committed to an open public consultation process to find a suitable location for a new facility.

“It’s time to hit the reset button on this issue,” says Mayor Nicole Read. “As the discussion unfolded in the last few weeks there was a strong theme around citizens supporting a purpose-built facility in the community. I thank the Minister for the offer to invest \$15 million in our City to make this a reality. What needs to happen now is for BC Housing to work with the City and our citizens to have a strong dialogue around the best location and operating model for this facility. We will take the time to get this right and we are counting on our local community and political leaders to come together around this project.”

The City is committed to creating a safe, healthy and prosperous community for all of its citizens and will continue to engage BC Housing and the Province of British Columbia to address the serious issue of homelessness in our region. Finding permanent housing for individuals, such as the ones currently being housed at the temporary shelter, is a priority.

In light of the announcement, the Council meeting scheduled at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 29 has been cancelled.

BC Housing has also cancelled the public information session from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Baptist Church at 22155 Lougheed Highway.

For more information please contact Chief Administrative Officer Ted Swabey at [tswabey@mapleridge.ca](mailto:tswabey@mapleridge.ca) or by phone at 604-463-5221