



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Maple Ridge Response to “Homes Not Hate” Rally

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The City of Maple Ridge has taken considerable action to deliver services and housing to those in need in our community, as homelessness is a serious issue which cannot be ignored.

Through the Maple Ridge Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) and its Street Action and Housing Teams, the City was able to house and secure medical and mental health services for 81 people living in a tent encampment which had formed on our streets last year.

Because of the effectiveness of this program, Maple Ridge successfully achieved a voluntary decampment of the site without confrontation and costly legal battles which have typified other communities’ experiences throughout BC.

While a recent proposal by BC Housing to offer temporary housing was ultimately cancelled, a commitment to build permanent supportive housing in Maple Ridge was made shortly after. The City welcomes the announcement and has been in regular contact with the Province on moving forward.

The City of Maple Ridge is committed to consulting with the public, stakeholders and the Province to identify a site for this significant project and will soon announce more details on the process.

"The City is committed to bringing the community together and having meaningful dialogue on ways to address this important issue." Said Mayor Nicole Read. "While there certainly will be differing views represented at that time, hate cannot and will not be one of them."

Staff are preparing a report with recommendations to Maple Ridge City Council on ways citizens can engage on the issue of homelessness in the community, its causes and potential solutions. For more information on the MRRI and its programs, please visit [www.mapleridge.ca/954/Maple-Ridge-Resilience-Initiative](http://www.mapleridge.ca/954/Maple-Ridge-Resilience-Initiative).

For more information contact Kelly Swift, General Manager: Community Development, Parks & Recreation Services at [kswift@mapleridge.ca](mailto:kswift@mapleridge.ca) or 604-467-7337.