



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council to Review Parks Bylaw Based on BC Supreme Court Rulings

Maple Ridge, BC: At the May 16, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting Council received a proposed amendment to the Parks Regulations – Bylaw No. 7085-2014. The amendment relates to temporary shelters in public parks to ensure that City bylaws respect the judgements issued by the BC Supreme Court. These judgments came as a result of litigation initiated by the City of Abbotsford and the City of Victoria as they sought to get injunctions against camping in public spaces.

“Council will review the recommendations at the May 24 Council Meeting to ensure that we can find the balance between the Charter Rights of homeless people and the needs of other residents of the City with an eye to preventing the creation of long term encampments,” said Mayor Read.

The proposed amendment outlines specific parks and public spaces where camping is prohibited outright and reads;

No person shall place, secure, erect, use or maintain a temporary shelter at any time in the Civic Centre/Memorial Peace Park, Nokai Park or Raymond Park or in, on or within: playgrounds, spray parks or pools; horticultural display areas or ornamental gardens; skateboard bowls, tennis courts or other sports courts; sports fields, stadiums or dugouts; stages or bleachers; washroom facilities, picnic shelters, or gazebos; areas of a park that have otherwise been issued a permit pursuant to this Bylaw; recreation facilities; cemeteries; golf courses; or pathways, bridges, docks or wharves within the City.

In other areas not included in the camping ban the proposed amendment requires that any temporary structures be removed between the hours of 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.

For more information about the proposed amendment to Parks Regulations – Bylaw No. 7085-2014 please contact Robin MacNair, Manager of Bylaws and Licences at rmacnair@mapleridge.ca or 604-463-5221.