



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Council Meeting on Monday, May 30 for Update on Homelessness Issues

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday, May 30 Council will hold a Special Council meeting at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers to get updates from a number of different stakeholders on their work to address homelessness in Maple Ridge.

Presenters include;

- a) **Ridge Meadows RCMP:** Superintendent David Fleugel, Commanding Officer - Ridge Meadows RCMP, on policing response related to homelessness.
- b) **Alouette Addictions:** Annika Polegato, Executive Director - Alouette Addictions, with an update on their work with people that have transitioned from the streets into housing and their interface with people that remain living on the street.
- c) **Fraser Health:** Andy Libbiter, Executive Director, Mental Health and Substance Use - Fraser Health, Denyse Houde, Director Mental Health and Substance Use - Fraser Health, Dr. Helena Swinkels, Medical Health Officer - Fraser Health speaking to their programs aimed at the homeless citizens who are dealing with addictions and/or mental health issues.
- d) **RainCity Housing:** Sean Speer, Associate Director - RainCity Housing and Support Society, with an update on the shelter operations and the outcomes for their past and current clients.
- e) **BC Housing:** Dominic Flanagan, Executive Director Supportive Housing and Programs, with an update on Alouette Heights, the Salvation Army shelter and the proposal for the clients currently in care at the RainCity operated shelter closing on June 30, 2016.

“We want to make sure that citizens have the opportunity to hear directly from the community stakeholders the work that has been underway over the last year to deal with homelessness, addiction and mental health in our community,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “This is a challenging and complex issue and we want to be as transparent as possible about the outcomes and future planning as we deal with this issue in the short and long term.”

An agenda and reports will be posted on the city website on Friday afternoon. The meeting is open to the public and will also be live-streamed via the City website at mapleridge.ca. The meeting is also being recorded and will be posted for review later in the week for those interested citizens who are unable to attend in person.

For more information contact Mayor Nicole Read at nread@mapleridge.ca or 604-463-5221