



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2016 316-29

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## **Council Seeks Input From Downtown Businesses On Shelter**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** At the June 6, 2016 Council Workshop meeting a resolution was passed to invite the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Association and the adjacent properties to a forum to discuss BC Housing's proposal to extend the use of the temporary shelter. This flows from the presentations and public questions and answer period held as part of the Special Council meeting held on May 30, 2016.

At the Special Council meeting representatives of BC Housing and their partner agencies, Fraser Health and Alouette Addictions, made presentations to update Council on the work that is underway to deal with the impacts of homelessness, addiction and mental health in our community. At that meeting BC Housing made a proposal to bridge the time that it will take to develop a permanent purpose built housing project to address the needs of the community.

The proposal is that;

- a) BC Housing would assume the lease on the temporary shelter and extend it by approximately nine months to allow for an alternate site to be identified for an interim shelter.
- b) BC Housing has offered to construct an interim shelter facility using modular buildings on a suitable piece of property. The interim facility would have 24/7 staffing and use an integrated case management program to work with all clients. The interim modular housing would be in place for approximately 36 months to bridge the time required to develop a permanent housing solution.

“Council is looking forward to hearing the feedback from the business community before endorsing an extension of the temporary shelter,” said Mayor Read. “All of us around the table and stakeholders need to ensure that we have all of the facts as we look at the short term and long term strategies before us.”

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