



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20, 2016 #16-34

For further information, contact:  
Wendy McCormick at 604-467-7328  
wmccormick@mapleridge.ca

## **Council Moves Forward On Interim Housing Solutions**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Monday, June 20, Council dealt with the three step process that was presented to Council on May 30, 2016 by BC Housing to provide shelter and housing to people in our community who are homeless. The request from BC Housing is;

- 1) BC Housing will assume the lease of the temporary shelter and keep the facility open for up to nine months.
- 2) Within the nine months BC Housing will construct an interim modular shelter facility that will be in place for 36 months.
- 3) BC Housing will work with the City to develop a permanent purpose built housing solution for Maple Ridge based on a \$15 million commitment from the BC Housing Ministry.

On May 30, Council directed staff to conduct a forum to gather feedback from the business owners and residents in the area around the temporary shelter to help provide them with more information before they consider endorsing an extension to the temporary shelter. The resulting High Impact Stakeholder Consultation meetings were held on Thursday, June 16.

Invitations to the High Impact Stakeholder Consultation were delivered, by hand, to 185 residences and businesses in proximity to the temporary shelter. Local business owners and residents attended the sessions and provided their feedback. Four Council members, staff from RainCity Housing, RCMP, Maple Ridge Bylaws, Community Services, Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Area and Alouette Addictions attended the sessions. The meeting facilitation was done by Hector Bremner from Pace Consulting and all comments were recorded.

The facilitator asked participants to share their comments and observations on;

- 1) Impacts of the current temporary shelter.
- 2) Practical solutions that might be implemented in Maple Ridge.
- 3) Whether they could support the three step process as requested by BC Housing.

All participant comments, as well as emails received by Council on this issue, can be found within the report that is part of the June 20, 2016 Council Workshop agenda at [mapleridge.ca/DocumentCenter/View/7664](http://mapleridge.ca/DocumentCenter/View/7664).

After considering all the feedback, Council voted to endorse the extension of the temporary shelter by up to nine months and to assign the lease of the temporary shelter from the City of Maple Ridge to BC Housing on the condition that BC Housing receive permission from the City of Maple Ridge for any further extensions.

Council also directed staff to bring back a report on how the impacts and recommendations included in the High Impact Stakeholders Consultation Summary – Temporary Shelter report will be addressed.

At the same meeting Council also received the Interim Modular Shelter Land Use Criteria and Process report. That report can also be found as part of the June 20, 2016 Council Workshop Agenda at [mapleridge.ca/DocumentCenter/View/1621](http://mapleridge.ca/DocumentCenter/View/1621).

Council endorsed the report which outlines details of each step to put an interim modular shelter in place including the criteria for selecting a site and the process that will follow, including the development of a Neighbourhood Advisory Committee that will be in place throughout the life of the interim modular facility as well as expediting the closure of the temporary shelter.

For more information please contact Wendy McCormick, Director of Recreation & Community Services at [wmccormick@mapleridge.ca](mailto:wmccormick@mapleridge.ca) or by phone at 604-467-7328.