



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fentanyl Forum for Parents & Youth Runs October 5 in Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge, BC: In response to a province wide health crisis, a community 'Fentanyl Forum' will be hosted at Westview Secondary School (20905 Wicklund Ave) on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm with doors opening at 6:30 pm. The forum will be held in the multipurpose room.

The forum is being organized collaboratively by Fraser Health, School District No. 42, the City of Maple Ridge and Alouette Addictions with the assistance of the Ridge Meadows RCMP and will draw on resources from each organization.

The forum will include presentations by Fraser Health and Alouette Addictions, a panel discussion and Q&A session with the presenting agencies as well as representatives of the first responders working in our community. The organizers would like to thank the RCMP, Maple Ridge Fire Department and BC Ambulance Service for their support and input on this forum and their work on the front lines of this health crisis.

According to the most recent report from the BC Coroners Service, Maple Ridge has seen 20 deaths from January through to the end of August 2016. This is the third highest number of deaths in the Fraser Valley region behind Surrey with 62 deaths, Abbotsford with 23 deaths and just ahead of Langley with 19 deaths. Here is a link to the report;

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/death-investigation/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

“I want to thank all the organizations that have worked collectively to produce this forum in such a short time. We have assembled a strong team to communicate this important information,” said Susan Carr, School Trustee & Co-Chair of the City’s Strong Kids Team. “All around British Columbia we are seeing the headlines about overdoses and deaths due to fentanyl. These overdoses are not confined to drug addicts. This forum is intended to provide parents and youth with information about a drug that is cutting across all demographics and lifestyles. We need to arm citizens with information and start a dialogue with our kids.”

No pre-registration is required for the event. There will be information and displays available prior to the forum start time.

For more information about the forum please contact Susan Carr at Susan_Carr@sd42.ca or Tony Cotroneo, Community Services Manager at tcotroneo@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-467-7392.