



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Dialogue on Homelessness Starts October 20, 2016

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge has asked a subcommittee of the Social Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) to host a Community Dialogue on Homelessness. The group will host four forums to be held on October 20, October 26, November 3 and November 9, 2016. The sessions will be held at The ACT Arts Centre and run from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with the doors opening at 6:30 pm. No pre-registration is required.

Topics & dates of the forums are;

October 20: W5 – The Who, What, When, Where and Why of Homelessness

This session will have subject experts who will discuss the topic of homelessness with an emphasis on the causes and issues that contribute to homelessness. The speakers will address the unique experiences of youth and seniors and provide current and accurate information in a way that is not overly academic. Panel Members include Dr. Paul Kershaw, BA, McGill, PhD, UBC, Dr. Michael Krausz, Scientist, Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHÉOS), Mr. Navjeet Chhina and Mr. Mike Pond.

October 26: Jurisdictional Matters – Challenges & Opportunities

This session will focus on the moral and legal responsibilities of government to assist in finding solutions for this difficult social issue. This session will examine the constant struggle to balance individual liberty and the collective responsibility for shelter and housing services. Panel Members include Supt. Dave Flugel, Ridge Meadows RCMP, Ms. Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, City of New Westminster and Mr. James Yardley, Partner, Murdy & McAllister

November 3: Understanding Mental Health & Addictions

Homelessness is made more complex by mental health and addiction issues. This session will explore how these issues are related and reveal evidence-based and promising practices in the field of mental health and addictions. Panel Members include Mr. Rob Thiessen, Managing Director, Hope for Freedom Society, Dr. Glen Grigg, PhD, Registered Clinical Counsellor, Jericho Counselling and Mr. Mark Goheen, MA, RCC, ICCECT, Clinical Specialist, Mental Health & Substance Use Services, Fraser Health.

November 9: Housing Solutions

The final session will explore some of the practices and approaches that have worked to address homelessness and create an understanding around the continuum of housing and the roles of each level of government. The panel members will be announced when they are confirmed.

For details about the Community Dialogue on Homelessness please go to www.mapleridge.ca/1537. These sessions will be live streamed and the videos will be posted a few days after each event. For further information please contact Shawn Matthewson, Social Planning Analyst at 604-467-7464 or via email at smatthewson@mapleridge.ca.