



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 28 Update: City of Maple Ridge Injunction Application

Maple Ridge, BC: The City of Maple Ridge was scheduled to be back in BC Supreme Court for a two-day hearing on June 28 and 29. The City has asked that the case be adjourned based on a commitment by the occupants of the St. Anne property to; stabilize the situation in the camp, work towards a voluntary decampment and, for the City to closely monitor conditions in the camp and surrounding neighbourhood while at the same time, lobbying the Provincial Government for a solution to the shortage of suitable social housing in the City.

“The injunction application has not been cancelled, Council has taken the opportunity to hit the ‘pause’ button based on information that was presented by the defence as part of their June 16 filing,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “Our focus in the coming days is to deal with the immediate health and safety issues for the people in the protest camp and surrounding neighbourhood. We are seeking assurances from the camp organizers that the camp will not grow and that as camp members are housed the numbers will diminish towards voluntary decampment.”

In conjunction with its discussions with the defendants, the City has met with BC Housing to advocate for resources to deal with the short term health issues of the camp and will be engaging both BC Housing and the Provincial Government in discussions regarding additional social housing for the City.

“I understand the frustration of citizens on all sides of this issue. Each one of us around the Council table has heard from residents expressing their views on how we should deal with this matter. There are no simple answers. Housing and health care delivery are the responsibility of the province, and right now everything is on hold as the formation of the new government hangs in the balance,” said Mayor Read.

“The City is seeking the best outcome from a no-win situation. The best scenario is that the camp occupants are able to connect with housing and health care services. Our sincere hope is that the protest organizers are committed to a shared goal of getting each person in the camp to housing and health supports. Time will tell,” added Mayor Read.

Further updates will be provided as new information becomes available. For more information on this media release, please contact Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Maple Ridge at 604-463-5221 or by email at tswabey@mapleridge.ca.