



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date July 31, 2017 #17-35

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Staff & Volunteers Gain Valuable Knowledge Assisting With Wildfire Response

Maple Ridge, BC: Three City of Maple Ridge staff members who are part of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) team and a number of Emergency Support Service (ESS) volunteers were able to get frontline experience assisting other communities as part of the ongoing BC Wildfire response. In addition, the Ridge Meadows RCMP Detachment deployed members to other areas of the province to deal with the large scale evacuation orders.

“The City of Maple Ridge was very proud to be able to free up staff and volunteers to assist other communities as the province deals with impacts of the wildfires. Each person who was deployed to the Interior has incredible stories about the competence and resolve of the professionals working to fight fires and manage the evacuations. They were moved by the generosity of citizens who were asked to remain in their communities to provide food, lodging and technical expertise to the frontline responders,” said Mayor Read. “Early in this emergency I reached out to Mayors of communities in the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) to offer our support. Two of our staff deployed to the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Operations Centre in Williams Lake and their stories and experiences reflect the urgency of the situation expressed by the people I spoke to.”

“Maple Ridge has also freed up resources, such as portable cots and mattresses, to assist in the province-wide response should they be required. The costs of loaning staff and other resources are recovered as part of the provincial response, however the experience that our staff has gained and the information they bring back to our City are invaluable as we constantly update our emergency planning protocols and training,” said Maple Ridge CAO Ted Swabey.

“This is just the beginning of what could be a very challenging year for wildfires in BC. I know that people have been opening their homes to family and friends from the evacuation zones. There have been fundraisers by so many individuals and organizations that reflect the generosity of

our citizens. As a City we will continue to monitor the situation around the province and stand ready to assist where our expertise and resources are needed,” said Mayor Read.

For more information on this news release please contact Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer by phone at 604-463-5221 or email at tswabey@mapleridge.ca.