



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2017 #17-42

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## **Provincial Resources Directed to Assist Citizens Facing Evictions**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Thursday, August 3, Mayor Read hosted a meeting with the owner of one of the buildings where renovations are displacing citizens from their rental accommodations.

“As the issue around multiple evictions for renovations unfolded in our community Minister Lisa Beare and MLA Bob D’Eith reached out to their colleague, Housing Minister Selina Robinson, to mobilize resources to help deal with this situation,” said Mayor Read. “Last Thursday I hosted a meeting with the owner of the Esme building along with Minister Beare, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Housing and staff who have been interacting with residents who have received eviction notices or are facing future eviction. Our goal was to get face-to-face information on the plan for the building and ensure there is a plan to minimize the impact of any work on the residents. I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Minister Beare and Minister Robinson on their fast action regarding this issue. The result is that we now have outreach and support to deal with the immediate impacts and a longer term plan is emerging to ensure we don’t see people lose their homes.”

Outreach services have been authorized to provide rental subsidies to help place people that have been displaced by the renovations.

In addition to the immediate response, the Residential Tenancy Branch has agreed to host an information session on Thursday, August 10, 2017 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm to provide citizens with an opportunity to learn what their rights are as renters. This session will be held at the Greg Moore Youth Centre located at 11925 Haney Place across from the north central entrance to Haney Place Mall.

“The City will continue to monitor the situation to ensure local residents are able to connect with services and supports to keep people housed. We recognize that it is important for buildings to

be well maintained and we encourage building owners to be proactive in how they plan for, and execute renovation programs to minimize the impacts on their tenants. The Residential Tenancy Act outlines the minimum requirements, however owners should recognize the emotional impact these projects have on residents and work in a collaborative fashion to make a renovation program a real win-win for the community,” added Mayor Read.

Information on resources available to residents if they need assistance with rental issues can be found on the City website at [mapleridge.ca/DocumentCenter/View/14584](http://mapleridge.ca/DocumentCenter/View/14584)

For more information on the issue please contact Mayor Nicole Read by email at [nread@maperidge.ca](mailto:nread@maperidge.ca) or by phone at 604-463-5221.