



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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City of Maple Ridge Completes Two Day Hearing at BC Supreme Court

Maple Ridge, BC: On June 12 and 13 the City of Maple Ridge was back before BC Supreme Court Justice Grauer to address, in part, an application against the City brought through lawyers working with the Pivot Legal Society.

The application sought orders from the BC Supreme Court intended to, amongst other things, open the St. Anne site to anyone who wishes to use it for housing or shelter, to deprive the City of the right to restrict entry to the encampment property and to compel the City to open the encampment site for use as a safe injection site. The City argued strongly against this application and Justice Grauer has reserved his decision to be delivered at a later date. The City will share Justice Grauer's ruling with the public when it is released.

Additionally, the City filed its own application to the Court to exclude long-time camp occupant Dwayne Martin from the St. Anne property. Mr. Martin's history on the property includes an apprehension on February 24, 2019, by the RCMP following a standoff arising from his refusal to allow the Maple Ridge Fire department to inspect the structure that he had constructed at the St. Anne encampment. During the June 12 and 13 hearing the Court heard evidence that Mr. Martin had dangerously tampered with the propane supply to the on-site 'warming tent', creating a dangerous situation for all on the site.

Mr. Martin, through his lawyer, has agreed to a timeline that will see him leave the encampment into a BC Housing managed facility. By an order of the BC Supreme Court, he will be prohibited from occupying the property once that timeline has completed.

"I would like to thank the community for their patience as we continue to follow the court ordered process. My expectation is that the remaining people in the encampment will be housed in the near future and that the camp will be closed," said Maple Ridge Mayor Mike Morden.

There are currently approximately 6 individuals occupying the site and the City has asked BC Housing to expedite the provision of housing for these individuals to have the camp come to an end as quickly as possible. When occupation of the St. Anne property ends the City will proceed with the development of a neighbourhood park, which has been on hold since May of 2017.