



## District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2012 #12-35

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### **Community Living BC Announces Two-Year Contract Extension for Ridge Meadows Recycling Supported Work Program**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Thursday, September 27, 2012, Community Living BC announced a two-year contract extension with Ridge Meadows Recycling Society to continue the supported work program that employs 25 people in our community.

“We are pleased that Community Living BC has made this longer term commitment to this important program. This program is essential for the 25 folks who work as part of the program and the support workers who work closely with them. These people deal with a wide variety of challenges in their lives, and this job allows them the opportunity to do meaningful work, interact with the others in our community and have a stable welcoming work environment,” noted Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin. “I know that there has been a huge shift in the attitude toward this program in the last year and I want to thank Community Living BC, on behalf of the community, for providing a longer term commitment to the program. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Premier Clark, who made a personal visit to the Recycling Depot earlier this year to meet these workers face-to-face. MLAs Marc Dalton and Michael Sather also worked passionately with us to advocate for this program. We’re all thrilled at this announcement,” he added.

“The supportive work program is an important part of the way that Ridge Meadows Recycling Society operates. This spring we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an organization. The supported work program has been in place for almost 20 years and has become part of the fabric of how we do business in the community,” said Kim Day, Executive Director, for Ridge Meadows Recycling Society. “This team is an important part of diverting recyclables from the waste stream. Ridge Meadows Recycling Society is extremely grateful for the very strong support and advocacy that Mayor Daykin

and Council have shown for this program. We are so pleased that Community Living BC recognizes the value of this unique program and is making this longer term commitment.”

The program provides employment for 25 people with developmental disabilities and three support workers who work with the staff and families. The funding announcement will also allow the program to look at new referrals.