



Deep Roots
Greater Heights

District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Meets with BC Education Minister to Support School Site Acquisitions

Maple Ridge, BC: Thursday, March 8, 2012, Mayor Ernie Daykin, MLA Marc Dalton, School District No. 42 Board Chair Mike Murray, District Chief Administrative Officer Jim Rule, School District No. 42 Superintendent Jan Unwin and School District No. 42 Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Jefferson met with BC's Minister of Education, George Abbott, to review an innovative program that will speed up the acquisition of two school sites in the Albion and Silver Valley neighbourhoods in Maple Ridge.

In March 2009, the District of Maple Ridge and the School District entered into a joint agreement where the District of Maple Ridge would work proactively to assist in the acquisition of school sites in conjunction with the acquisition of park sites which are usually located beside each other. The current funding model for school site acquisitions between School District No. 42 and the BC Government does not support the program model developed in our community and would result in a loss of Provincial funding for the acquisition of new school sites.

"While school site acquisition and development are the responsibility of local School Districts and the Provincial government, we in Maple Ridge know that schools and parks are an important part of building strong communities. We know that there is a need to move as quickly as possible to support school site acquisition in both Albion and Silver Valley," said Mayor Daykin. He continued, "Minister Abbott appreciated the strong business case and collaborative model that we've developed and made a commitment to review the language of the current funding criteria and work with his colleagues at the Treasury Board to create a way to make this work."

An integrated approach between the District of Maple Ridge, School District No. 42 and the Ministry of Education would allow the community to move more quickly to acquire two school sites in our developing neighbourhoods. "This program is an example of how we do business in Maple Ridge. We have a critical need in the community and everyone has pulled together to come up with an innovative approach to solve the problem," noted Mayor Daykin. He continued, "Our MLA, our School Board Chair and staff and Maple Ridge Council and staff are all pulling in the same direction on this matter, and Minister Abbott acknowledged that the collaboration between Maple Ridge and the School District is something special. We were encouraged by the thoughtful questions from the Minister and his understanding of the issue."

For more information on the meeting please contact Mayor Ernie Daykin at 604-463-5221

