



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Council First to Approve New RCMP Policing Agreement

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday morning, April 2, 2011 the District of Maple Ridge Council was the first to approve the new Municipal Police Unit Agreement between the District and the Province of BC. This agreement replaces the previous contract that has been in place for the last 20 years and expired on March 31, 2012.

While Council normally refers items from the Council Workshop meetings to the regular Council Meetings for formal votes, Mayor and Council decided to vote on the matter immediately on April 2, 2012 to send a strong message of support for both the agreement and the relationship the District of Maple Ridge has with the RCMP detachment that serves the community.

“The negotiations involved three important principles. The first was that the new agreement had to reflect a change from a client based relationship to one that reflects a partnership between the RCMP and municipalities. The second, and a very important one for all municipal taxpayers, is that the agreement needed to create a stronger financial accountability between the RCMP and the municipal governments. The third was that the agreement created a framework for cost containment and cost control,” said Mayor Daykin. He continued, “here in Maple Ridge we have had the kind of collaborative approach with the local detachment, and in many respects, this province wide agreement reflects the kind of local accountability that we have built informally through strong relationships with the current and past Maple Ridge Councils and the leadership of our detachment.” There are three agreements that govern the relationship between the RCMP and local government. There is a direct agreement between the RCMP and the Federal government, and an agreement between the Federal Government and the Province of BC. The Municipal Police Unit Agreement is the third and final part of the governance structure.

“As I speak to my colleagues in the Lower Mainland I realize that our Council has a high degree of knowledge and comfort with this agreement based on the regular updates that we’ve been getting from our staff. Mr. Gill, General Manager: Corporate & Financial Services, has been part of the entire

negotiation process over close to three Council terms and has been briefing us as each aspect of the agreement was developed,” said Mayor Daykin. “While we usually move these items forward to Council for the formal vote, in this case we’d like to send a strong message to our local detachment reflecting our respect and admiration for their commitment to the principles that this agreement brings to the rest of the province,” noted Mayor Daykin.

While Council approved the agreement formally on Monday, April 2, Mr. Gill made a presentation to Mayor and Council at the beginning of the April 10 Council meeting. His presentation and the discussion can be viewed by following the Council Video link on the home page at mapleridge.ca. A full copy of the report and the Municipal Police Unit Agreement is also available as part of the Council Workshop agenda package for the April 2, 2012 meeting. That can be found by clicking the ‘Mayor and Council’ link at mapleridge.ca.