

City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Evacuation of St. Anne Camp Site Complete

Maple Ridge, BC: Late Friday afternoon, March 1, the City of Maple Ridge was advised that an Evacuation Order was issued for the St. Anne Camp site by the Provincial Fire Commissioner after an application by Maple Ridge Fire Chief Howard Exner.

On Saturday, March 2, that evacuation was completed and the site is now closed and secured. Security personnel are stationed at the site 24 hours a day and supported by the RCMP.

The City of Maple Ridge's Emergency Support Services (ESS) team opened a Reception Centre at 12:00 pm on Saturday and is providing meals and overnight accommodation for the evacuees from the St. Anne Camp. Fifteen people have registered with the ESS team. Additional space is available if others choose to register on Sunday. The ESS team will continue the operation of the Reception Centre until Monday when the Salvation Army will activate social support services.

"I would like to thank all City staff and first responders who worked together today to successfully evacuate the site and get support services in place. I would also like to acknowledge that this has been a very emotional day for the camp occupants and we appreciate their cooperation," said Mayor Mike Morden. "My hope is that everyone will be able to sleep safely tonight. I would ask that citizens refrain from visiting the area and recognize the importance of giving space and privacy for the ESS team and camp occupants."

On Sunday the Maple Ridge Fire Department will begin their work to address the fire safety risks on the site. The City will share additional information as work proceeds.