



CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE
NEWS RELEASE

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City and Ridge Meadows RCMP Collaborate to Address Youth Gun and Gang Violence

Maple Ridge, B.C.: The City of Maple Ridge and Ridge Meadows RCMP, with support from local community organizations, are working in tandem to implement programs and services using \$1.8 million in funding received from the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF). The BSCF, announced by the Government of Canada in March of this year, will support initiatives with the goal of strengthening resilience of and preventing youth entanglement in gun and gang violence.

Over the next three years, the City and Ridge Meadows RCMP will implement a comprehensive plan encompassing various programs, services, and initiatives guided by three project pillars: community engagement and education, prevention, and intervention. Focuses will include creating positive social environments through community, family and service organizations, promoting social policies that support youth development, and building positive relationships and patterns of interaction with mentors and helping peers.

"We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Canada for their investment in the safety and well-being of our community," said Mayor Ruimy. "This funding aligns with our ongoing commitment to create a safe and supportive environment for our youth and our entire community. This is a great example of what can be achieved when different levels of government and the community work together on what matters most. Working together, we remain steadfast in our dedication to empowering our youth and cultivating a brighter future for Maple Ridge."

The collaboration between the City of Maple Ridge and Ridge Meadows RCMP presents a unique opportunity to address the underlying causes of youth gun and gang violence from multiple perspectives. Officer in Charge, Superintendent Wendy Mehat, emphasized the significance of this partnership, stating, "This collaboration between the City and the Ridge Meadows RCMP is unique. We look forward to building a team with support from community services agencies to support vulnerable youth through early intervention and an individualized case management approach. We will be launching an initiative soon to support families and youth with the goal of enhancing resiliency, establishing referral pathways, and supporting our youth in making positive life choices."

For additional information, visit www.mapleridge.ca/2722 or contact Chad Cowles, Manager of Bylaw & Community Safety, by email (ccowles@mapleridge.ca) or phone (604-467-7418).

Key Points

- The City of Maple Ridge has been awarded \$1.8 million from the Building Safer Communities Fund.
- The three-year plan places emphasis on programs, services, and initiatives that prioritize safety, community and individual wellness, and inclusion for youth.
- The collaboration between the Ridge Meadows RCMP and the City, with support from community service agencies, allows for a holistic approach to addressing youth gun and gang violence.
- Updates on the progress and impact of the programs and services will be provided in late Fall of this year.