



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2019 #19-22

For further information, contact:
communications@mapleridge.ca

Update: St. Anne Camp Evacuation

Maple Ridge, BC: The Maple Ridge Fire Department and Bylaws Department continue their work to address the fire safety of the St. Anne site under the terms of the Fire Evacuation Order.

A front end loader has been deployed to safely remove debris from the fires and lift other heavy items to the main road for disposal. Reports that the City has brought in a bulldozer to tear down structures are false.

Based on the recommendations of the City's arborist, a number of trees and shrubs have been removed from the St. Anne site due to fire damage or other defects, such as wind damage.

The site was secure overnight on Sunday, and security patrols will remain in place 24 hours a day supported by the police.

The City is maintaining the operation of the Emergency Support Services (ESS) Reception Centre to address the needs of the evacuees from the St. Anne site. The City would like to acknowledge the support of the Salvation Army in supplying meals and other logistical aid since the evacuation order was enacted.

The Maple Ridge Fire Department continues to investigate the fires. The investigation process is lengthy and complicated. We need to be accurate in determining the causes of the fires, and this relies on evidence as the cornerstone.

"I am aware that the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, was asked a number of questions relating to the situation in Maple Ridge on Sunday, March 3 as part of a ground breaking event in Vancouver. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with her and her colleagues a week ago in Victoria to begin discussions on a number of topics. One of the goals was to hit the 'reset button' and forge a new relationship with our Council," said Mayor Morden. "Our Council is committed to finding solutions and working in a collaborative fashion with the Province, through their housing and health agencies, to address the immediate and long term housing and social support needs in Maple Ridge. Those discussions will happen directly with the appropriate agencies, not through the media."

Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.