



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proposed Facility at 21375 Lougheed Highway is not an Emergency Shelter

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday, August 8 the City of Maple Ridge announced that an agreement has been made to acquire the property located at 21375 Lougheed Highway as a potential site for a \$15 million interim and long term integrated housing facility proposed by BC Housing.

Media coverage has incorrectly reported that the 21375 Lougheed Highway site is 'one block' from the old proposed site at the Quality Inn. The proposed site is four blocks, or nearly half a mile from the Quality Inn location (21735 Lougheed Highway).

"The BC Housing proposal is quite different than the emergency shelter model that we have now. The purpose built facility will provide a more integrated housing approach and stronger support framework," said Mayor Read. "Such facilities go a long way in providing support to our community's most vulnerable people, while addressing some of the wider community's desire to reduce crime and improve cleanliness and safety. The zoning process for the new facilities will provide ample opportunity for community feedback and we all look forward to that discussion."

The first step in the rezoning process is a Development Information Meeting that will be hosted by BC Housing, as the project proponent, and the City of Maple Ridge, as the land owner. The timing of that meeting is expected to be middle to late September.

At that meeting BC Housing will lay out their proposal for an integrated housing solution that has 24 hour supervision and the wraparound supports to address mental health and addiction service supports to assist people from life on the streets into stable housing options.

“What we heard in the dialogue regarding the Quality Inn proposal is that there needs to be a strong health care support framework around any facility that operates in the community. The community also expressed concern around a transparent public process and the need for people to have their voice heard in the discussions,” said Mayor Read. “Council agrees completely, and this is the very early stages of a community conversation that will take a few months. The Province has offered to invest \$15 million in Maple Ridge to help deal with an issue that has impacted our community for over a decade. It would be irresponsible to not fully explore this offer.”

As noted on August 8, the use of this property for both the proposed housing project requires a rezoning from its current Residential Zoning to Institutional Use Zoning. The normal rezoning process will be followed including;

- a) A Development Information Meeting hosted by BC Housing & the City of Maple Ridge
- b) Consideration of First and Second readings of the Zoning Bylaw
- c) A Public Hearing relating to the Rezoning and Proposed Use
- d) Consideration of Third Reading of the Zoning Bylaw
- e) Consideration of Final Reading (Approval) of the Zoning Bylaw

If Council decides not to approve the Rezoning Application, the land will be considered for other community uses or it may be put back on the market and sold.

For more information about the purchase please contact Wendy McCormick, Director of Recreation and Community Services at 604-463-5221 or by email at wmccormick@mapleridge.ca.