



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2019 #19-12

For further information, contact:  
Kelly Swift at 604-467-7337  
[kswift@mapleridge.ca](mailto:kswift@mapleridge.ca)

## **Mayor Morden Meets with Provincial Ministers**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Monday, February 25, Maple Ridge Mayor, Mike Morden met with a number of BC Provincial Ministers to discuss a broad range of issues around housing affordability, delivery of addiction and mental health services and community safety.

“I want to start by thanking our local MLAs, Minister Lisa Beare and Bob D’Eith who worked very hard to bring this meeting together,” said Mayor Morden. “Those present at the meeting noted that it was a rare occasion when five cabinet ministers were able to sit together to have this kind of dialogue. This extraordinary opportunity was not lost on me, and I was grateful for the welcoming atmosphere, the willingness of everyone to listen to our concerns and the quality of questions from the Ministers and their staff reflecting their understanding of our presentation.

Those attending the meeting included:

- Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health & Addictions
- Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
- Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
- Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
- Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism MLA Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows
- Mr. Bob D’Eith MLA Maple Ridge - Mission
- Mr. Shane Ramsay, CEO of BC Housing
- Michael Morden, Mayor City of Maple Ridge
- Kelly Swift, Acting CAO City of Maple Ridge

There were a number of topics discussed including the impacts of housing affordability, the increasing frequency of ‘renovictions’ and the availability of affordable housing for seniors and those dealing with poverty. The discussion also included; operational models, accountability of operators and the community impacts for facilities that are addressing the housing needs of those with addictions and mental health challenges in the community.

There was a dialogue around the delivery of addiction and mental health services in the community. Mayor Morden asked the Province to look into the difficulty that local governments have in getting accurate information on people who are receiving services in the community and

what the outcomes are as they move through the network of services and front line organizations. The hope is that by addressing reporting and data collection gaps across Ministerial portfolios there can be better coordination and improvement in outcomes for those who are dealing with multiple health issues and housing challenges.

As part of the meeting discussions, Mayor Morden asked for a continued commitment from the Provincial government to invest \$60 million in Maple Ridge towards social housing and additional financial support to address costs associated with the St. Anne Camp.

“While this is a large list of topics, they are interconnected. I got the sense that there is a broad understanding that we all need to work across jurisdictions to identify the problems, assess and enact solutions and ensure that we all understand our roles and responsibilities,” said Mayor Morden. “I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Ministers, on behalf of Council, and express our commitment to work together to make life better and more affordable for those we all serve. We look forward to the next steps.”

- 30 -

