



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Council Passes Resolution to Develop Social Housing Plan**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Tuesday, March 5, Maple Ridge Council unanimously passed a resolution at the Workshop Meeting to address the Province's request for the City of Maple Ridge's Social Housing Plan.

"Through this resolution we want to be transparent to the public, and our Provincial government partners, that we are committed to working in a collaborative fashion to come up with solutions that address the housing and social service needs in our community," said Mayor Morden. We have put a very high value on ensuring that those discussions occur directly between City representatives and the agencies responsible for delivering housing and health services on behalf of the Province and not through the media."

The resolution is:

*"Whereas on December 18, 2018 Mayor Morden sent a letter to Honourable Minister Beare (Tourism and MLA Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) and Honourable Mr. D'Eith (MLA Maple Ridge – Mission) requesting a meeting with Provincial Ministers and BC Housing to address potential pathways towards resolving social issues in Maple Ridge, including the creation of new social housing;*

*Whereas on February 25, 2019 Mayor Morden and City staff travelled to Victoria and met with the Honourable Minister Robinson (Housing and Municipal Affairs), the Honourable Minister Dix (Health), the Honourable Minister Darcy (Mental Health and Addictions), the Honourable Minister Simpson (Social Development & Poverty Reduction), the Honourable Minister Beare (Tourism and MLA Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows), the Honourable Mr. D'Eith (MLA Maple Ridge – Mission), Mr. Shane Ramsay (CEO BC Housing) and other representatives of the Provincial Government, and discussed cooperating to resolve social issues in Maple Ridge, including the creation of new social housing and the City's intended plan to accomplish this (the "Social Housing Plan");*

*Whereas on March 4, 2019 Minister Robinson communicated to Mayor Morden a March 8, 2019 deadline by which time the Provincial Government expects to be in receipt of the City's Social Housing Plan, and following which the Government of British Columbia may otherwise unilaterally exercise its authority to establish social housing in Maple Ridge;*

*Mayor and Council resolve to instruct the City's staff to assemble a plan to submit to the BC Government to address social housing options within Maple Ridge (the "Social Housing Plan") to be considered by Mayor and Council in an open meeting on March 12, 2019, and for ultimate delivery of the Social Housing Plan to the Government of British Columbia."*

"From the discussions last week in Victoria I know that there is a lot of common ground on which to build and implement meaningful solutions. I appreciate the patience of the public and emphasize that Council remains focused on our objectives of creating a safe community for everyone while ensuring the Province delivers the housing and health services people need," said Mayor Morden.