



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City Affirms Commitment to Work with the Province on Social Housing Plan

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Tuesday, March 12, Maple Ridge Council unanimously endorsed a Social Housing Plan which outlines an approach to address the immediate and long-term housing needs of Maple Ridge residents. In response, the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing has expressed concerns about the recommendation to place additional units on the existing Royal Crescent temporary modular housing site that would address the immediate needs to end the occupation of the St. Anne site.

“City staff worked under very tight deadlines to deliver what the Minister asked for; an actionable Social Housing Plan to address the immediate and long term needs of our community,” said Mayor Morden. “We understand that there may be limitations to the number of units that can be added to the existing Royal Crescent site. We ask the Minister to allow City and BC Housing staff to continue their collaborative work underway to identify the site constraints and how to overcome them.”

He continued, “Our Council has not rejected any housing solutions offered by the BC Government. We took office in November, reached out proactively, and with great respect, went to Victoria on February 25 to talk about our problems and how to seek solutions, including short and long term housing needs facing our community. The City is working in a very deliberate fashion to address the ruling of the BC Supreme Court to identify the specific housing needs of the St. Anne camp occupants. That ruling recognizes the City and Province’s mutual need to work together to place the occupants into housing and ultimately achieve camp closure.”

“Our Council cares about all people impacted by homelessness, addictions and mental health problems in our community. We are invested in working with the BC Government through a

respectful and direct dialogue to find new approaches to address a province-wide issue. Our focus is on outcomes, to deliver a sustainable social support system where people who are struggling with housing or health problems can access the necessary resources to help them move forward in their lives. To be clear, outcomes will also include a safe city for all residents and businesses” said the Mayor.

“At this point it’s important to give our respective staff the time to gather the necessary information and develop recommendations to find the common ground that I know exists. Once we have verified information on the immediate housing needs as well as a full understanding of possible site constraints at Royal Crescent, I then welcome the opportunity to get together. Along with staff, we will work through our mutual concerns and how we resolve them for the people we both serve,’ Mayor Morden concluded.