

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Council Provide Stronger Enforcement Tools for Nuisance Properties**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** On Tuesday, December 10, Council recommended that the Maple Ridge Nuisance Prohibition Bylaw be forwarded to the January 14, 2020 Council meeting for consideration. This bylaw will provide the City's Bylaw Department and Police with stronger enforcement tools to deal with residents that are causing a nuisance to the community.

"Our front line staff in Bylaws and the RCMP are often called to the same properties to deal with disrespectful behaviour that impacts the peace and quiet of our neighbourhoods. This bylaw creates consequences for people engaging in negative behaviour and offers a cost recovery mechanism that shifts the expense away from taxpayers and relieves police workloads," said Mayor Morden.

He continued, "The focus will be on education first, escalating to financial penalties, if necessary, should the problematic activities continue. Our constituents have a reasonable right to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their homes. This bylaw will create accountability for all citizens to their neighbours."

The bylaw will also provide enforcement tools to address complaints of odours, illuminations and other nuisances arising from businesses and private properties, including individual medical cannabis licensed properties and larger cannabis production facilities not located within agricultural zoned lands. Cannabis growing facilities on agricultural zoned lands fall outside the City's jurisdiction and complaints must first be made and addressed by the Farm Industry Review Board, before the City can take any enforcement action regarding non-compliance on farm related issues.

Maple Ridge joins the City of Pitt Meadows and the City of Surrey in enacting a Nuisance Prohibition Bylaw with abatement measures.