

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Receives Community Social Safety Initiative Update

Maple Ridge, BC: Council is marking a major milestone for its Community Social Safety Initiative (CSSI), as the initial strategy nears full mobilization. The original CSSI Action Plan is now 85 percent operational, with most outstanding items requiring collaboration with senior government.

The CSSI Action Plan was endorsed by Council in October 2019 and consists of 35 different initiatives, including the Community Safety Officer (CSO) program.

Other components of the CSSI that have been enacted include:

- the Safer Streets Bylaw;
- the Nuisance Bylaw;
- the Supportive Recovery Housing Bylaw;
- joint patrols, tiered enforcement and outreach with the Ridge Meadows RCMP;
- the Lock Out Crime Through Environment Design (LOCTED) program to provide small businesses in the Town Centre with security infrastructure, and;
- amending the owner occupancy requirement for secondary and garden suites.

“Council’s CSSI is working and making a difference in our community,” said Mayor Mike Morden. “It is supported by the provincial government and several municipalities are currently looking at evaluating our solution, which is designed to effectively respond to public safety matters and provide people with access to the help they need. We are doing our part and we look forward to working with our federal and provincial partners to carry out some of the remaining elements of our plan.”

The CSO program has proven hugely successful so far, with more than 2,000 case files opened and dozens of individuals directly connected with social services. In addition, Council is currently exploring the expansion of the CSO service to provide coverage from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, seven days a week.

Members of the public can now view performance metrics related to the CSSI on the [City’s newly-launched Community Social Safety Dashboard](#).