

ST. ANNE CAMP FAQ

1. WHAT DOES THIS ORDER OF CONSENT MEAN?

The Order of Consent, issued on November 27 by the BC Supreme Court, is a legally binding agreement between the City, the Province and occupants of the camp to address the immediate fire safety issues on the site.

It is noteworthy that the agreement represents a voluntary commitment by the Province and camp occupants, strengthening the prospect of compliance.

2. WHY DID THE CITY ADJOURN THE INJUNCTION APPLICATION TO REMOVE THE CAMP?

The injunction application consisted of two components. The first related to the immediate life safety issues that were identified on the site. The second was to end the illegal occupation of the site. The Order of Consent endorsed by the BC Supreme Court addresses the immediate fire safety issues on the site.

The second component of the injunction to end the illegal occupation of the site has been adjourned. Currently all shelter beds in our community are full. A review of similar cases that have been brought before the BC Supreme Court demonstrates the reluctance of the courts to order a decampment in the absence of alternative housing. The adjournment provides an opportunity for the Province to develop and implement a plan to provide housing solutions and health care supports that will lead to an end to the camp.

The City of Maple Ridge has been urging the Province to engage in a public dialogue around possible housing solutions and that this occurs before site selection. This would allow citizens the opportunity to ask questions around housing and health care supports, and neighbourhood impacts.

3. WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ADDRESS THE FIRE SAFETY CONCERNS ON THE SITE?

Recommendations have been provided by the Maple Ridge Fire Department to the agencies working to support the camp occupants to improve the safety of the site. The Province will ensure occupants are provided with supplies and services to comply with fire safety regulations. The City and Province will monitor compliance to ensure the regulations are met and maintained.

4. WILL ADDITIONAL SERVICES BE PROVIDED AT THIS SITE?

The Province of BC is responsible for the delivery of housing and health care supports. The City of Maple Ridge has no role in determining or delivering housing and health care services. The City and Province will continue to monitor the Camp to ensure the fire safety regulations are implemented and maintained.

5. WHO WILL BE PAYING FOR THE SERVICES DELIVERED AT THE ST. ANNE CAMP?

The services being offered to the people in the St. Anne Camp are being provided by the Province of BC through their ministries and agencies who deliver services in our community. Maple Ridge taxpayers are not funding the delivery of housing and health care solutions, as these are the responsibility of senior governments.

6. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE CHANGES ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED?

The Order of Consent has been granted by the BC Supreme Court. If the terms of the agreement are not satisfied the City can return to the BC Supreme Court for assistance in ensuring compliance with the judgement.

7. WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING TO DEAL WITH THE IMPACTS OF THE CAMP?

Ridge Meadows RCMP have developed and are implementing a policing strategy for the downtown that includes enhanced police patrols. In addition, the Downtown Maple Ridge Business Improvement Area and BC Housing have arranged for private security patrols.

The RCMP issued the following statement as part of the FAQ;

"The RCMP is part of the Community Safety Enforcement Team, which consists of Fire, Bylaws and other City representatives. We rely on our excellent working relationship with this team to collaboratively address safety issues and engage relevant stakeholder when necessary to work towards resolutions. We will continue to respond to reports of crime and hold those responsible for breaking the law. For all non-emergency calls call 604-463-6251 or you can e-mail at rm.inquiries@rcmp-grc.gc.ca."

8. HAS THE CITY APPLIED FOR ANY OF THE MODULAR HOUSING UNITS THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE PROVINCE?

The Province is aware of the housing needs in Maple Ridge. The City has been advocating for housing and health care solutions in Maple Ridge for over two years.

In 2016 the BC Government made a \$15 million commitment to provide housing and health supports in Maple Ridge, and since then, has re-affirmed its commitment to provide housing solutions in Maple Ridge which may include modular housing units.

The City has urged the Province to engage in a public dialogue around possible housing solutions before site selection, to allow citizens the opportunity to ask questions around housing and health care supports, and neighbourhood impacts.

9. WHY IS THERE A CAMP ON THE ST. ANNE PROPERTY, AND WHAT IS THE INJUNCTION ABOUT?

In early May of 2017, a group of people established a camp on the St. Anne property to protest the closure of a temporary shelter. The City initiated an injunction process to have the camp removed. That injunction was adjourned in June to give the newly elected Provincial government time to address the situation.

In late October the injunction process was resumed in response to immediate fire safety concerns at the camp. On November 27, 2017, the BC Supreme Court issued an Order of Consent regarding the steps that need to be taken to address the fire safety concerns on the site. The City, the lawyers representing occupants of the camp, and the Province, are all in agreement on the Order, indicating a strong commitment that strengthens the prospect of compliance. If there is a different outcome, the City will re-assess this approach, and could return to Court to enforce the Order if needed.

10. WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO TO ADVOCATE FOR THE SERVICES TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF CAMPS?

The responsibility, authority and funding model to connect citizens to housing and healthcare supports rests with the Province, through BC Housing and Fraser Health. You can email and call your local Member of the Legislative Assembly or your Member of Parliament. Following is the appropriate contact information.

We ask that you be respectful in your emails, letters and phone calls to your elected representatives.

Dan Ruimy
MP for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows
Email Dan.Ruimy@parl.gc.ca

Bob D'Eith
MLA Maple Ridge-Mission
Email bob.deith.MLA@leg.bc.ca

The Honourable Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture
MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
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