

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Maple Ridge's Community Social Safety Initiative Attracts Attention from Around BC**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** In July 2019, the City formally launched its Community Social Safety Initiative (CSSI). Our evolving community driven program responds to crime and social problems using appropriate intervention, the overarching goal being to create a fully functional social safety net for our City. The City-funded program is a first in BC that innovates in utilizing three tiers of public safety coupled with an integrated continuum of housing, health and social services.

To illustrate the success of the CSSI in a concise and informative package, the City has released a short video that highlights key components of the initiative, provides a snapshot of where we are today and why it is working.

“The CSSI is a responsive program that addresses the public’s call for a safe community while assuring people access to the help they need,” said Mayor Morden. “Council hears from the community that we are making a difference. It’s an evolving program implemented by some very special people, armed with compassion and understanding on social problems, that drive this important work that is truly reflective of the core values of our City and its people.”

In seeing the proactive approach and success the initiative is having in Maple Ridge, a dozen other communities in BC have reached out to see how they can implement similar programs that help eliminate the gaps in the social safety net that are proving to be a challenge for local governments around the province.

Key components of the City of Maple Ridge’s CSSI program include:

- The Integrated Safety Ambassador Program in conjunction with the RCMP
- A Community Resource Hub with Senior government funding & Inter-agency collaboration
- The Community Safety Officer Program 16 hour/ & day a week service model deployment
- The Supportive Recovery Housing Bylaw
- Restorative Justice, Integrated Court and Diversion Initiatives
- CSSI Public Engagement including Neighbourhood Consultation & New Milestones
- City endorsed Housing List to the BC Government ([mapleridge.ca/2612](http://mapleridge.ca/2612))

The Video is available on the City website at [mapleridge.ca/2623](http://mapleridge.ca/2623) and will also be released on the City’s YouTube and social media channels.