A New Approach to Addressing Homelessness in Maple Ridge

The provincial government is working to provide a full spectrum of housing options and supports to help people in need, and to strengthen the overall response to the ongoing homelessness and housing challenges in Maple Ridge.

BC Housing in partnership with the City of Maple Ridge, Fraser Health Authority, the Salvation Army and RainCity have been diligently trying to find feasible solutions to the growing homelessness issue in Maple Ridge.

The Province will ensure increased supports are provided for Maple Ridge residents, including those in new modular housing, through the Intensive Case Management Team. The team has capacity to serve additional clients so that people in need in the community have access to a broad range of supports, including mental health and addictions care.

As part of our approach, public information sessions will allow direct feedback from residents and provide an opportunity to ask questions and inform development.

What we know from practice:

- **Fact:** studies have shown that social housing does not impact property values of neighbouring homes.
- **Fact:** studies have shown that people with stable housing are more likely to find consistent employment, undergo successful treatment for any mental health and addictions issues, and build better social relationships.
- **Fact:** there is no evidence of increased crime in areas around social housing buildings.
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Homelessness is an issue that is impacting many municipalities across the province including the City of Maple Ridge.

There are **124 homeless individuals** in Ridge Meadows. This is an **increase of 48% since 2014**.

**Where are they coming from?**
- **60%** have lived in the Ridge Meadows area for **10 years or more** and **38%** all their lives.
- **57%** of respondents reported to have been homeless for **a year or more**.

**Demographics**
- **33%** women
- **7%** youth
- **26%** Indigenous
- **19%** seniors

**Top three barriers to housing**: low incomes, high rents and the lack of available housing that suits people’s needs

- **61%** identify having **two or more health conditions**.
-  62% reported addiction
-  51% reported mental illness
-  9% reported medical condition
-  38% reported physical disability

**Existing BC Housing services in Maple Ridge:**

- As of December 31, 2017:
  - Provides 168 rent supplements to prevent homelessness
  - Funds 25 Extreme Weather Response mats
  - Funds 30 temporary shelter beds
  - Funds 25* year round shelter spaces (*+5 beds funded through The Salvation Army)
  - 88 homeless individuals housed

BC Housing has subsidized a total of 293 low-income families and senior households in Maple Ridge.

BC Housing also helps a total of 553 families and senior households with rental assistance in the private market in Maple Ridge.

Supportive Housing tenants take pride in their neighbourhood ensuring neighbours know they care about the people who live around them. Tenants do their part to actively participate in the community too, assisting neighbours with yard work, cleaning, and other chores; plus providing another level of street security and scrutiny, keeping an eye out on the neighbourhood, reporting suspicious activities to staff or neighbours.