
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development
District of Maple Ridge

59 JOBS CREATED IN \$9.2M MAPLE RIDGE HOUSING INVESTMENT

MAPLE RIDGE – The Province is investing \$9.2 million to build a 46-unit supportive housing development in Maple Ridge that will help create approximately 59 jobs, announced Rich Coleman, Minister of Housing and Social Development, and Randy Hawes, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission.

“Our government is committed to not only providing safe and supportive housing for those in need, but also to creating new jobs in this challenging economy,” said Coleman. “The development of this site will benefit the District of Maple Ridge and its residents for many years to come.”

“Integrating support services and housing is proven to help individuals overcome personal challenges, gain greater self-reliance, and achieve appropriate employment,” said Hawes. “This is why our government is partnering with municipal governments and community partners to develop projects like this.”

Construction is expected to start in fall 2009. The proposed site at the northeast corner of 222nd St. and Brown Ave. is part of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Province and the District of Maple Ridge in October 2008. Rezoning is required for the site, which is proposed for development with approximately 46 units of supportive housing. The district’s approval process will be consistent with established policies and practices for development permit applications, including public consultation on the projects, as well as formal public hearings on the applications.

“Housing with support services is essential to building a healthy and sustainable community,” said Maple Ridge Mayor Ernie Daykin. “When complete, citizens of this community will have the opportunity to get the help they need because of this partnership between the district and the Province.”

The Alouette Home Start Society (AHSS) will be involved in the design and development of this supportive housing and will provide on-site support services, including staffing the housing 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

“Our society is working to help individuals in need by establishing partnerships with different levels of governments and local service agencies to create affordable housing with on-site support services,” said Sheila McLaughlin, president of AHSS. “Through these partnerships, we will endeavour to connect individuals with the counselling, education, prevention and referral programs they need to make positive changes in their lives. We look forward to continued community support as we move through the development process.”

This project is part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

Increasing affordable housing, reducing homelessness and helping our most vulnerable citizens is a key agenda for the Province of British Columbia. In 2009/10, the Province's budget for affordable housing and shelters is \$469 million, more than four times as much as in 2001.

'Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness' is a website providing a comprehensive and detailed look at provincial programs and services to address homelessness. Visit www.bchousing.org/breakingthecycle for more information.

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