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Minutes of the Community Support & Accessibility Committee Meeting

November 24, 2025, 10:30 AM

Meadows Room

12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 2B5

Voting Members: J. Armstrong, Fraser Valley Regional Library
J. Gilfillan, Salvation Army
Councillor Hayes
Councillor O'Connell (Chair)
M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society
K. Rogge, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services
C. Shearme, Community Network - Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows & Katzie First Nation and Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie Seniors Network
K. Sullivan, School District 42 Representative

Staff: P. Ward, Director of Planning & Development

Regrets: M. Picard, Westcoast Family Centres
M. Robson, Friends in Need Food Bank
A. Sanchez, Fraser Health

Recording Clerk: R. Costa, Legislative Services Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor O'Connell acknowledged with respect and gratitude that the City of Pitt Meadows is located on the traditional, unceded territory of ḱíçəý (Katzie) First Nation who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 AM.

2. LATE ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By unanimous consent, the agenda of the November 24, 2025, Community Support and Accessibility Committee meeting was approved.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

By unanimous consent, the minutes of the September 15, 2025, Community Support and Accessibility Committee meeting were approved.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Space Needs Discussion

P. Ward, Director of Planning and Development, provided an overview of the intent of the Space Needs Discussion, which included some of the following points:

- It was noted that many local community service providers are often searching for additional space, and many community service programs are delivered in Maple Ridge, which can create access barriers for Pitt Meadows residents;
- The intent of this discussion is to better understand space needs for community services, and facilitate information-sharing among community service providers, with a view of supporting enhanced collaboration and assessing potential future space opportunities; and
- It was noted that the City does not currently have any space that could be made available to community service providers.

The Committee participated in a roundtable discussion, which included some of the following highlights:

- A discussion was held regarding general space needs for the Community Network/Seniors Network, which included the desire for a meeting space that can accommodate up to thirty (30) people;

- The Ridge Meadows Seniors Society (RMSS) noted that many of their programs operate successfully in both communities; however, the EngAge program continues to face waitlists due to limited available space;
- RMSS expressed their space needs, highlighting the need for a programming space for approximately 40 staff, volunteers, care aids and programmers, an on-site kitchen, an accessible washroom, and parking to support staff and seniors with accessibility needs (five to six days a week);
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services noted that the recently completed feasibility study for Alisa's Wish identified the need for a satellite space within Pitt Meadows. Community Services also indicated that counselling space, office space and small group space is also needed in the Pitt Meadows community, and related services and programs could likely be provided three days a week;
- The Salvation Army spoke to their space needs to address the immediate needs of serving clients daily serving in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Some clients struggle accessing the Maple Ridge location, therefore, a satellite location within Pitt Meadows would be ideal;
- A discussion was held regarding the possibility of utilizing the Pitt Meadows Grace Community Church for community services; however, space is limited at this facility;
- Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) noted that the Pitt Meadows Public Library currently has a meeting room that can serve nearly twenty-five (25) people;
- It was noted that during busy event seasons, there tends to be a lack of larger spaces at the public libraries, and the public gymnasium is often booked to accommodate these programs;
- FVRL expressed that a designated quiet area would be beneficial for individuals who rely on the quiet environment for remote work, interviews, or similar activities;

- Hours of operation were discussed, noting earlier closures could impact availability for public spaces;
- A discussion was held about potential partnerships and shared spaces in the new Pitt Meadows Secondary School, noting that the design of the new school was already underway;
- Following the elimination of the Starfish Program, work is underway to launch a weekend-based program. It was noted that a Pitt Meadows based facility with a kitchen would be beneficial for families previously enrolled in the Starfish program;
- A suggestion was made to consider partnership ties with the agriculture community, as their facilities may be vacant for a significant period throughout the year (i.e. harvest off-seasons);
- A suggestion was made to consider upgrading the kitchen at the Heritage Hall and to connect with United Way to procure coolers through their assistance programs;
- A discussion was held around the anticipated time utilization for the proposed meeting spaces, which varied between the various organizations;

P. Ward noted that the committee's discussion could be shared with other City staff for awareness and consideration of future opportunities.

5.2 Updates from Community Outreach Agencies

Community Outreach Agencies participated in a roundtable discussion providing a verbal update on their individual organizations.

J. Armstrong, Fraser Valley Regional Library [FVRL]:

- The Gimbal Video Stabilizer equipment rental program has recently been launched, with information available on the FVRL website here: <https://www.fvrl.bc.ca/playground/gimbal-video-stabilizer>; and

- Additional new equipment is available to rent through the FVRL, which includes items such as air quality monitors, thermal leak detectors, energy meters, solar panels, radon detectors, and other innovative equipment, and can be rented between two (2) to three (3) weeks.

K. Rogge, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services:

- The Annual Winter Wonders Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 29, 2025, between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m.;
- A total of three-hundred (300) senior have signed up for the Senior's Christmas Lunch, which is scheduled for December 16, 2025; and
- It was noted that Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services continues working closely with the Alouette Addictions Services strengthening their relationship to assist members of the community.

K. Sullivan, School District No. 42:

- The School District received a presentation from the Food Security Manager and Coordinator that serve the district, and it was outlined that 33% of families access the reservoir within Maple Ridge;
- An overview was provided detailing the range of food currently available to students through the SD42 Food Security Program, which included the following:
 - Breakfast is provided to various elementary students within the district, currently totalling approximately 4,700 meals per week; and
 - Secondary schools house coolers and snack baskets dispersed throughout the building to provide multiple access points for students.
- The sustainability of the food programs were discussed noting that School District No. 42 receives the least funding out of 60 districts within the

Province; and

- A discussion was held regarding students accessing services in neighbouring communities, which could impact the total amount of funding received.

M. Perretta, Ridge Meadows Seniors Society (RMSS):

- An update is expected regarding the society's grant application to enhance and modernize its website, which will improve accessibility for users;
- The Grapevine Magazines were recently updated and have received positive feedback.

C. Shearme, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie Seniors Network and Community Network - Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows & Katzie First Nation:

- The Seniors Network has partnered with the Maple Ridge Public Library to host a 'Christmas Concert with the Silvertones', scheduled for December 3, 2025, between 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., giving an opportunity for seniors to sing holiday carols and enjoy coffee, tea and snacks; and
- Partnered with Foundry Ridge Meadows and the Alouette Men's Watershed, an Inter-generational Christmas Dinner will be held on December 18, 2025, at the Greg Moore Youth Centre, which is aimed to bring together youth, seniors and families, to enjoy games, singing, and other activities.

J. Gilfillan, Salvation Army:

- The Salvation Army Christmas Kettles have launched this year, noting four (4) locations in Pitt Meadows and eight (8) in Maple Ridge;
- Efforts are planned to help clarify the services of the Salvation Army, with a focus on highlighting the organization's significant contributions to food security within both communities;

- The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Dignity Breakfast is scheduled to take place on November 26, 2025, between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m., and is aimed to raise funds to sustain the programs provided, as well as provide an opportunity for community services to connect to support those in need; and
- The Salvation Army continues to work closely with the Christmas Bureau to ensure families are not receiving assistance through multiple programs at the same time.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.

The next **Community Support & Accessibility Committee** meeting is scheduled
for **Monday, February 23, 2026, at 10:30 AM**

Certified as correct:

Rachel Costa, Legislative Services Clerk