

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ridge Meadows joins Foundry provincial network

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Maple Ridge, BC | Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows is the latest community to join the provincial Foundry initiative, joining the growing network of integrated health and social-service centres for young people.

With new provincial funding, Foundry Ridge Meadows, led by Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows Community Services, will build on and expand existing services to align with the Foundry model and provide young people ages 12-24 with enhanced access to primary care, mental health and substance use services, social services (e.g. housing and income assistance) and family and youth peer supports.

In 2017/18, the Ministry of Health provided \$200,000 to each regional health authority to support the establishment of Foundry's five new centres. In addition to Ministry funding, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services will receive \$200,000 in one-time philanthropic funding for a total \$400,000 in establishment support; and the organization is currently working with local partners to complete establishment costs and ensure Foundry Ridge Meadows meets the unique needs of its community. The next step will be to determine an appropriate location for the new centre to ensure it can accommodate the scope of services that make up a Foundry centre.

This announcement builds on the work of the Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Local Action Team (LAT) and the development of the Youth Wellness Center. The LAT involved a mix of over 80 community organizations, professionals, youth and parents coming together to improve mental health and substance use services for young people and their families, and led to the development of the Youth Wellness Centre.

Now, as part of the Foundry network, the Youth Wellness Centre will transition into Foundry Ridge Meadows with a broader scope and enhanced services and supports to improve access to care for young people throughout the community.

The centre will join the province-wide network which includes open locations in Vancouver (Granville and the North Shore), Kelowna, Campbell River and Prince George and centres in Abbotsford and Victoria currently in development.

"The new Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Foundry centre will be a safe, barrier and judgment-free resource for youth who are struggling with mental health and addictions," says Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Judy Darcy. "At Foundry, youth and their family can expect to find a welcoming community that

offers health care, mental health care, and addictions and social services all under one roof – all designed to help people get back to a path of wellness.”

“Too many young people are struggling with mental-health and substance-use challenges,” said Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy. “Foundry centres, like the one in Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, offer a safe place where youth can come through one door and get the supports and services they need – including counselling, medical care and addiction services – so they can get back on a healthy path.”

“For too long, young people have struggled to access supports for mental health and addiction, says Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture and MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows. “This exciting new partnership will allow our youth to access a comprehensive range of much needed services. It is a wonderful example of what is possible when the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows community comes together.”

“The Youth Wellness Centre has already been doing incredible work for young people in our community, says Bob D’Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission. “I’m so pleased to see them join the Foundry network with new provincial funding to enhance their work promoting youth wellness.”

“Foundry takes a prevention and early intervention approach, helping overcome gaps and barriers in systems so young people and their families can access the support they need, when they need it—and not have to re-tell their story over and over, ” says Dr. Steve Mathias, Foundry’s executive director. “By offering welcoming one-stop shops with a variety of wellness services, we want to remove the stigma of seeking help and reach young people early on -- before small problems become big ones.”

“We are absolutely thrilled to be welcomed as a new member of Foundry,” says Vicki Kipps, Executive Director of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services, the lead agency for Foundry Ridge Meadows. “Youth, parents, community leaders and organizations who came together with a shared vision of providing services to youth in an innovative and accessible way developed the Youth Wellness Centre. Thanks to volunteers and donations, the Youth Wellness Centre at the Greg Moore Youth Centre was the start of something incredible for youth. Now as part of Foundry, we have the opportunity to enhance our vision of a stronger community where youth have immediate and accessible services when they need it the most. We know our community will come together once again to ensure Foundry Ridge Meadows is a success.”

“It takes a community coming together to truly create change, and Foundry is helping us do just that. We are ready for the opportunities that lie ahead with our partner,” says Dr. Ursula Luitingh, a family doctor who has been providing services at the Youth Wellness Centre.

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Foundry removes barriers and increases access to care by developing a province-wide network of wellness centres for young people ages 12-24. Foundry centres provide a one-stop-shop for young people to access mental health care, substance use services, primary care, social services and youth and family peer supports. By bringing together a variety of health and social services under one roof and working in partnership with young people and families, Foundry is helping BC's young people get the help they need when they need it. Hosted by Providence Health Care, Foundry is supported by the Government of British Columbia, Graham Boeckh Foundation, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and St. Paul's Foundation. To learn more visit www.foundrybc.ca.

Established in 1971 **Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services** is a local, multi-service charity with a Mission Statement to "support and empower individuals and families to realize their potential and achieve a level of self-reliance". We support this Mission Statement by offering client centred services and programs that embrace the following values: community, compassion, excellence, growth and respect. The staff operates in a culture that has a desire to demonstrate caring, integrity, and accountability ensuring acceptance and support to all people who need our services.