



**Maple  
Ridge**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**December 9, 2025**

**Roxanne Hooper**

**Editor, Maple Ridge News**

**Via email: [editor@mapleridgenews.com](mailto:editor@mapleridgenews.com)**

**Re: Diversion of maternity patients from Ridge Meadows Hospital**

To the Editor,

The diversion of maternity patients from Ridge Meadows Hospital due to a lack of obstetrician-gynecologist physicians is unacceptable for Maple Ridge. We are a rapidly growing city with many young families who deserve dependable local care during pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum. Asking expectant parents to travel to other communities - often on short notice and at unpredictable hours - adds risk, stress, and cost at one of the most critical moments in a family's life. This has happened before. It cannot become our new normal.

Healthcare is critical infrastructure. Just as roads and water systems must function every day, so too must our hospital and primary care network. When services are interrupted, the impacts ripple across our community - from longer ER wait times to higher costs for families and reduced confidence that essential care will be there when needed.

I recently met with the Minister of Health to convey our city's deep concern and to advocate for immediate and sustained provincial investment in our local hospital and community-based healthcare, especially obstetrics, emergency coverage, mental health, and substance-use supports. I am also sharing these concerns with the new CEO of Fraser Health Authority.

Our message is clear: Maple Ridge needs a funded, reliable plan that stabilizes staffing, restores maternity services, and strengthens the full continuum of care close to home.

Municipalities like ours are being asked to do more than ever. We are moving quickly to meet unprecedented provincial requirements to add new housing and are doing our part to enable growth responsibly. But as we add homes, the Province must ensure health services keep pace. Cities cannot continue backfilling provincial responsibilities with local property taxes, especially as households face rising costs.

We are calling on the Province and Fraser Health to:

1. Restore and protect local maternity services, with a concrete staffing plan that prevents recurring closures.
2. Increase operating and capital funding at Ridge Meadows Hospital to meet current demand and projected growth, including emergency, obstetrics, diagnostics, and primary care integration.
3. Expand community mental-health and substance-use services, with dedicated funding for stabilization, treatment, and step-down supports to reduce hospital pressure.
4. Align health-service expansion with rapid housing targets so growth is matched by the essential services families rely on.

Maple Ridge residents have done their part: supporting community safety, embracing new housing, and contributing through local taxes to the amenities that make our city livable. It is time for the Province to do its part by fully funding the healthcare services our growing city requires.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Ruimy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Ruimy, Mayor  
City of Maple Ridge