

## City of Maple Ridge – Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services Fee for Servicing Agreement

### Recommendation:

THAT the Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the agreement attached to the report titled “City of Maple Ridge – MRPM Community Services Fee for Service Agreement” of August 23rd in the amount of \$15,800 in year 2023, \$15,800 in year 2024, and 15,800 in year 2025.

<b>Report Purpose and Summary Statement:</b>	Seeking Council approval to ensure adequate funding for the Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Restorative Justice Program.
<b>Previous Council Action:</b>	Continued renewal/funding for Fee for Service Agreement since 2016
<b>Financial Impact:</b>	None
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Police Services’ operation budget
<b>Strategic Alignment:</b>	Liveable Community; Engaged, Healthy Community
<b>Climate Impact:</b>	N/A
<b>Communications:</b>	N/A
<b>Applicable Legislation/Bylaw/Policy:</b>	N/A

## City of Maple Ridge – Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services Fee for Serving Agreement

### **BACKGROUND:**

Restorative justice is a community-based approach that focuses on repairing harm, accountability, and rehabilitation instead of punitive measures. These initiatives have shown promise in reducing recidivism, healing communities, and improving overall safety. The safety and well-being of community members are paramount.

Restorative justice offers an alternative to traditional criminal justice approaches by facilitating dialogue between victims, offenders, and community members. This approach aims to repair the harm caused by criminal behavior while encouraging offenders to take responsibility and reintegrate into the community in a positive manner.

The anticipated outcomes of funding restorative justice initiatives in Maple Ridge include, but not limited to, the potential reduction in crime rates and tendency to relapse, by addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour, and focusing on rehabilitation. Restorative justice initiatives allow victims and offenders to have a more active role in the justice process, fostering greater trust and engagement with the legal system.

The Ridge Meadows Youth and Justice Advocacy Association – Youth Conference Committee was formed in 1994 with the purposes of keeping first time young offenders from becoming repeat offenders. The Province provided some initial funding for the program, but declined to support the organization beyond its first year. In 1996, the City was approached with a request for funding in order to keep the program operational. Since then, the original vision of a focus on youth has evolved into a restorative justice model under the MRPM Community Services umbrella, and in 2018, age restrictions were eliminated. The City has provided annual funding since 1999, with \$15,800 provided in 2020. There have been prior presentations to Council about the program and the agreement which outlines expectations and reporting back requirements.

### **ANALYSIS:**

#### **Discussion:**

The Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows (MRPM) Community Service Restorative Justice Program has been in partnership with the City of Maple Ridge since 2016, fostering a safer, more resilient community.

#### **Desired Outcome:**

Adequate funding ensures the MRPM Community Services Restorative Justice Program seeks to address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. Restorative Justice can reduce expenses in the criminal justice system due to lower incarceration rates, fewer court cases, and less strain on Ridge Meadows RCMP resources. Ultimately, a key goal of funding restorative justice programs is to enhance

overall public safety. The focus on rehabilitation and reconciliation should lead to fewer offences and increased community engagement.

**Strategic Alignment:**

Engaged, Healthy Community – Ensure the safety and enhance the well-being of residents.

**Financial Impact:**

There will no additional financial implications for the municipality regarding the support for funding the MRPM Community Services. The necessary funding for these activities has already been allocated within the Police Services' operational budget. This allocation ensures that MRPM Community Services can continue their critical work without the need for further financial adjustments or impacts.

**OPTIONS & IMPLICATIONS:**

- 1) Recommended: That council renew and fund the agreement for the restorative justice program that will help realize the benefits of reduced criminal behaviour, lower incarceration rates, fewer court cases and reduced strain on MRPM RCMP resources.
- 2) Council could choose not to renew/fund the agreement that could result in higher criminal behaviour rates, higher incarceration rates, increased court cases and additional strain on MRPM RCMP resources.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommend Council approve the Fee for Service Agreement to support the Restorative Justice Program with Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services, recognizing the long-term benefits it will provide to our community's well-being and overall safety.

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Prepared by: Allison MacRae, Manager of Police Services

## **Attachments:**

(A) Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services Fee for Service Agreement

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Fee for Service Agreement- Community Services.docx
Attachments:	- Staff Report - Fee for Service Agreement, Community Servicesdocx.docx - Appendix A - City of Maple Ridge - MRPM Community Services Fee for Service Agreement.docx
Final Approval Date:	Sep 17, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Scott Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer