

STATEMENT FROM MAPLE RIDGE-MISSION CANDIDATE MARC DALTON

BC Liberal Party

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2009

MAPLE RIDGE – Maple Ridge-Mission BC Liberal candidate Marc Dalton released the following statement today:

“First and foremost, I want to apologize for the email from 12 years ago that has been raised by the NDP. If I have caused offence, I apologize unequivocally. The email in question was never intended to be offensive or hurtful to anybody. However, I can understand how it could be easily misconstrued. That is fully my fault and I take responsibility.

For 15 years, I’ve devoted my life to being a teacher. I’ve always tried to ensure I respect diversity in our communities and honour the contribution of persons from all different backgrounds and walks of life.

I fully recognize and applaud the significant contributions of the gay community. I would never want to cause offence to them or anyone else. It was never my intention to pass judgment on any individual and I have always been respectful of every individual’s right to privacy and self-expression. Nor is it my intention as a person running for public office to impose my personal values on anyone or to revisit an issue that has been historically divisive and that our communities have endeavoured to move beyond.

I believe it is important that people are respectful of one another and that public officials represent the full diversity of their communities. I have always tried to follow that principle as an individual, as a teacher, and I would do so as an MLA.

If Spencer Herbert or any other individuals have taken offence in their reading of this 12-year-old email, I again extend my unequivocal apology.”

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