



City of Richmond
Finance & Corporate Services Division


Memorandum

To: Mayor and Councillors
From: Anne Stevens
Manager, Customer Services
Date: February 19, 2004
File: 0168-01
Re: **Sister City re Letters**

At the General Purposes Committee on Monday February 16, 2004 Council requested copies of the letters, which were received from the various business organizations in Richmond, regarding a Sister City relationship in China.

Letters were sent to the following organizations Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Asia Pacific Business Association, Sunbrite Business Association and Tourism Richmond.

The Sister City Committee received only two responses back. They are attached for your information.


Anne Stevens
Manager, Customer Services

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January 22, 2003

Ms. Silvia Gwozd, Chair
Richmond Sister City Committee
6911 No. 3 Rd.
Richmond, BC V8Y 2C1

Dear Silvia Gwozd,

It is our understanding that the Richmond Sister City Committee is considering the twinning of a city in China. Various representatives from our organization have had discussions with members of your committee and we fully support and endorse your efforts in this regard.

As you may be aware, Tourism Richmond has initiated a number of programs in the past year to further develop the Asian / Chinese retail commercial district. We are working with that community to promote the "Golden Village" theme. We believe that tourism from Mainland China and the Asian marketplace has tremendous potential for the City of Richmond. We intend to expand our programming to solicit these markets throughout the next few years.

No doubt there are many considerations in selecting an appropriate twin city. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon our Executive Director, Rob Tivy, or myself at any time.

We wish you the best of success with this exciting program.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Rudin", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary Rudin
President



March 15, 2003

City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC
V6Y 2C1

Attention: Anne Stevens
Manager, Customer Services

Dear Anne:

Further to your letter of February 19, 2003 and my e-mail to you in response. I would like to formally introduce you to Richmond Chamber's International Committee that is supported by international experience and is Chaired by Cynthia Chen who was instrumental in bringing this group together:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Cynthia Chen | - International |
| Fred Lee | - China |
| Samir Shah | - India & USA |
| Ron Benoit | - International |
| George Jung | - International |
| Alexander Kostjuk | - China & Japan |
| Ron Reider | - Europe |
| Raymond Chan | - International |
| Doug Symons | - International |
| Diana Mau | - China |
| Jason Ko | - Taiwan |
| Raymond Cheung | - China |
| Roli Pogoson | - S.Africa |
| Florence Gordon | - International |

For the last two years the International Committee has hosted several trade missions from China, Europe, Mexico and currently working on projects with the USA Consulate's office. For several months the agenda has been to research and select a "Sister Chamber City". The process has been lengthy as we want to ensure that we develop a long-term relationship. The mandate has been to review common interests, values, population, possible historical connection but the Richmond Chamber of Commerce must also include developing business interests that will flourish today and successfully withstand a

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long-term relationship. The committee has researched and held several meetings on this topic and are carefully taking their time to select wisely.

When I first spoke to Mayor Brodie, I enquired if the City of Richmond were looking for a Sister City in China and if so the International Committee would be very interested in listening to the recommendations. The vision of complimenting each other's efforts would enhance everyone's interest if economic development is part of the equation. The two committees can continue working independent of each other but if communication could be shared with a clear understanding that the Richmond Chamber of Commerce is looking for a "Sister Chamber of Commerce". *Nanjing*

The International Committee and I would be happy to meet with you or your committee to discuss the opportunity in more detail. I await your response.



Florence Gordon
President

Cc. Mayor Malcolm Brodie