



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: March 5, 2018

From: Jason Kita
CPMG

File: 01-0100-30-SCIT1-
01/2018-Vol 01

Re: Sister City Advisory Committee 2017 Year in Review

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Sister City Advisory Committee 2017 Year in Review", dated March 5, 2018, from the Intergovernmental Relations and Protocol Unit, be received for information.

Jason Kita
CPMG
(604-276-4091)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CJ
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond's Sister City Program was established on February 11, 1974 (as the Sister City Twinning Committee) and fosters a mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of Richmond citizens for their common benefit.

In accordance with the Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) Terms of Reference, this report updates Council on work completed by the SCAC in 2017 towards the 2017-2018 Activity Plan (**Attachment 1**) endorsed by Council on January 9, 2017.

Background

The specific objectives of the Sister City Program are:

- To establish and maintain relationships with designated Sister/Friendship Cities that are meaningful and sustained through on-going activity;
- To develop a broad base of activity for Sister/Friendship City relationships in which many people and organizations in the community participate through planned and ongoing contact; and
- To engage the Richmond community and the Sister/Friendship Cities in projects and exchanges that promote cultural awareness and joint learning opportunities.

The City of Richmond has had a Sister City relationship with Pierrefonds, Quebec since 1967, Wakayama, Japan since 1973 and Xiamen, China since 2012. The City of Richmond formed a Friendship City relationship with Qingdao, China in 2008.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #2 A Vibrant, Active and Connected City:

Continue the development and implementation of an excellent and accessible system of programs, services, and public spaces that reflect Richmond's demographics, rich heritage, diverse needs, and unique opportunities, and that facilitate active, caring, and connected communities.

2.4. Vibrant arts, culture and heritage opportunities.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #5 Partnerships and Collaboration:

Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

5.1. Advancement of City priorities through strong intergovernmental relationships.

Summary of 2017 Year in Review

The SCAC activities and events during 2017 are outlined in **Attachment 2**.

Some of the highlights for 2017 include:

- Delegation from Wakayama for the Canada 150 Ships to Shore King of the Sea which featured the Kaiwo Maru. The Kaiwo Maru is a sail training vessel from the Japanese Agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers (JMETS), an organization that trains future navigators and engineers.
- Annual Richmond – Wakayama Student Exchange visit, organized by the Richmond School District and supported by the SCAC. In 2017, Richmond Students visited Wakayama, Japan.
- In recognition of Canada's 150th Year of Confederation, the Sister City Advisory Committee commissioned recognition plaques to the City of Richmond's sister and friendship city relationships.

The SCAC completed annual City-to-City recognition and the annual school exchange program with Wakayama, Japan. However, the Committee did not participate in the 2017 Canada Day Parade, was unable to garner participation from the Sister and Friendship Cities for a youth table tennis tournament and is currently conducting a review of anniversary milestone commemorations. In 2018, the SCAC is planning to participate in the Canada Day Parade and host a Youth Table Tennis Tournament along with other activities as outlined in the Activity Plan.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The 2017 Sister City Advisory Committee events and activities provide a foundation to further strengthen the existing friendship and sister city relationships.



Mike Romas
Program Manager, CPMG
(604-204-8503)

MR:mr

Attachment 1: SCAC Two Year (2017-2018) Activity Plan Budget
2: SCAC 2017 Year in Review

Sister City Advisory Committee Two year (2017 – 2018) Activity Plan Budget

The Sister City Committee Advisory Committee (SCAC) completed a very active 2014-2016 program which was supported with an activity budget of \$220, 00. Some of the activities during this period included:

- (2014) SCAC members and Richmond Chamber of Commerce representatives hosted the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT) delegation from Xiamen.
- (2014-2015)The SCAC partnered with the Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee on the production of book to commemorate 40th Anniversary
- (2015) Supported the Richmond Youth Honour Choir gala visit to Japan
- (2015) SCAC Electronic Information Display unveiled at City Hall, showcasing various SCAC activities and providing information on Richmond’s sister/friendship cities.
- (2016) Hosted the Wakayama Official Delegation visit to Richmond
- (2016) Organized the inaugural Sister City Youth Table Tennis Tournament
- (2016) SCAC and Richmond School Board hosted the Xiamen Sports Delegation visit to Richmond

The next two year (2017 – 2018) offers many opportunities to further develop and strengthen our Sister/Friendship City relationships through official visits, student, sport and cultural exchanges.

An activity budget allocation of \$56,500 is proposed for this period. The following sections provide budget information for engagement activities that the SCAC plans to carry out for 2017-2018.

Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee Two Year (2017 -2018) Program Activity Budget

SUMMARY OF 2017 – 2018 SCAC PROGRAM ACTIVITY BUDGET

	<u>Pierrefonds</u>	<u>Wakayama</u>	<u>Xiamen</u>	<u>Qingdao</u>	
2017	\$500.00	\$7,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
2018	\$500.00	\$14,500.00	\$7,000.00	\$4,500.00	
Subtotal	\$1,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$9,000.00	
TOTAL					<u>\$43,500.00</u>

SCAC SPECIAL ACTIVITY BUDGET:

Sister/Friendship City Anniversary Milestone Commemorations	\$10,000.00
SCAC Canada Day Parade Participation – (\$1,500 per year)	\$ 3,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$13,000.00</u>

TOTAL 2017 – 2018 SCAC PROGRAM ACITIVITY BUDGET \$56,500.00

SISTER CITY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

2 years @ \$11,000.00 per year

\$22,000.00

2017 – 2018 SCAC PROGRAM ACTIVITY BUDGET

PIERREFONDS, QUEBEC

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$500.00	\$500.00	
TOTAL (Pierrefonds 2017 to 2018)			\$1,000.00

WAKAYAMA, JAPAN

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Annual School Exchange Program	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
Steveston Judo Club Visit to Wakayama		\$7,000.00	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$ 500.00	\$500.00	
Subtotal	\$7,500.00	\$14,500.00	
TOTAL (Wakayama 2017 to 2018)			\$22,000.00

XIAMEN, CHINA

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Youth Table Tennis Tournament	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Summer Youth Art Competition		\$2,500.00	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Subtotal	\$4,500.00	\$7,000.00	
TOTAL (Xiamen 2017 to 2018)			\$11,500.00

QINGDAO, CHINA

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	
Youth Table Tennis Tournament	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Annual City to City Recognition Exchange	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Subtotal	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	
TOTAL (Qingdao 2017 to 2018)			\$9,000.00

City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2017 Year in Review

2017 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967), Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008). Information from various SCAC activities and events are outlined in the following pages.

2017 Committee Members:

Chair	Hans Havas
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Kevin Lainchbury
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Helen Quan
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Eden Jiang Zhang
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Iryna Vodchenko
Members	Glenn Kishi
	Ihsan Malik
	Michelle Chen
	Michael Sirota
	Stanley Yeh
	Lisa MacNeil
	Kim Ng
	Razzak Paracha
Council Liaison	Councillor Bill McNulty
School Board Liaison	Donna Sargent
	Alice Wong(Alternate)

January

- Newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.



Members of the 2017 Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee

- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Wakayama, Pierrefonds, Xiamen and Qingdao initiatives committees; and selected members to the following subcommittees:
 - Pierrefonds Initiatives;
 - Wakayama Initiatives;
 - Xiamen Initiatives;
 - Qingdao Initiatives; and
 - Public Relations Initiatives.

May

- On May 3, the Sister City Advisory Committee welcomed a delegation from Wakayama for the Canada 150 Ships to Shore King of the Sea which featured a Japanese tall ship the Kaiwo Maru. The Kaiwo Maru is a sail training vessel from the Japanese Agency of Maritime Education and Training for Seafarers (JMETS), an organization that trains future navigators and engineers.



SCAC members welcomed the a delegation from Wakayama at the Airport

- From May 8-20, 36 students and 4 teachers from Richmond visited Wakayama as part of the annual student exchange visit, organized by the Richmond School District and supported by the SCAC.



Richmond students meet with Mayor Obana



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Homestay family welcoming ceremony in Wakayama, Japan



Richmond Students visit Himeji Castle in Himeji, Japan

December

- In recognition of Canada's 150th Year of Confederation, the Sister City Advisory Committee commissioned recognition plaques to the City of Richmond's sister and friendship city relationships:
 - Pierrefonds, Quebec
 - Wakayama, Japan
 - Qingdao, China
 - Xiamen, China



Sister City Members celebrated Canada 150 with a gift to Richmond's Sister Cities