



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 27, 2014
From: Amarjeet S. Rattan **File:** 01-0100-30-SCIT1-01/2014-Vol 01
 Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit
Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee 2013 Year In Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the Sister City Advisory Committee 2013 Year in Review, attached to the report dated March 27, 2014, from the Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Protocol Unit, be received for information.

Amarjeet S. Rattan
 Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit
 (604-247-4686)

Att. 1

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

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) 2013 Year in Review Report, which supports Council Term Goal 6.6:

Development of protocols, role definitions and communication approaches with our Friendship and Sister Cities.

Findings of Fact

The primary purpose of the City of Richmond's Sister City Program is to foster mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of our citizens for their common benefit.

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 on-going contact; and
- To engage the Richmond community and its Sister/Friendship Cities in projects and exchanges that promote cultural awareness and joint learning opportunities.

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

The SCAC activities and events during 2013 are outlined in Attachment 1.

Some of the highlights for 2013 include:

- *Updated Policy and Procedures, Terms of Reference and Program Objectives for the Sister City Program:* Thirteen SCAC members are appointed by Council for two year terms. Each member will be limited to serving on the SCAC for a maximum of four consecutive terms (eight years).
- *Visit and performance by the Wakayama Children's Choir:* The choir consisted of 43 students from Wakayama, Japan, aged 13 to 18 years. They were joined by members of the Richmond Youth Honour Choir in a community performance at Richmond Pentecostal Church.
- *City of Richmond Official Delegation visit to Wakayama, Japan:* 2013 marked the 40th anniversary of Richmond's Sister City relationship with Wakayama, Japan. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, a delegation from Wakayama visited Richmond in early November 2012, and a Richmond delegation visited Wakayama, Japan in April 2013.

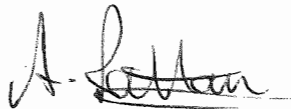
- *Dinner receptions with Consul General of Japan and Consul General of China:* The SCAC is developing closer working relations with the Consulate General offices of Japan and China, with respect to our Sister/Friendship cities in these countries.
- *Visit and performance by the world famous Qingdao Xiabaifan Art School:* In October, this children's group performed for a community audience of 800 at the River Rock Show Theatre. A delegation of officials from the Qingdao Foreign Affairs Office also visited the City in conjunction with the art school performance.

Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Conclusion

The 2013 Sister City Advisory Committee activities and events provide a foundation to further strengthen the existing Friendship and Sister City relationships.



Amarjeet S. Rattan
Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit
(604-247-4686)

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City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2013 Year in Review

2013 Summary:

2013 was another busy year for the Sister City Committee. The committee manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967) and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008).

Committee Members:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| Chair | Hans Havas |
| Vice-Chair, Wakayama | Jim Kojima |
| Vice-Chair, Xiamen | Weiping Liu |
| Vice-Chair, Qingdao | Cindy Wang |
| Vice Chair, Pierrefonds | Francis Turmeau |
| Members | Wei Liu |
| | Corinna Chan |
| | Amy Yu |
| | Andrea Dulay |
| | Kevin Lainchbury |
| | Gayle Morris |
| | Howard Smythe |
| | Juliana Yung |
| Council Liaison | Councillor Ken Johnston Councillor Linda Barnes (Alternate) |
| School Board Liaison | Eric Yung Debbie Tablotney (Alternate) |

January

- Updated Policy and Procedures, Terms of Reference and Program Objectives for the Sister City Program.

February

- Committee appointments with term ending December 31, 2012 were extended to March 31, 2013.

March

- Council appointed six new committee members.

April

- Commenced work on the Three Year Activity Plan for 2014 – 2016.
- Dinner reception at Consul General of Japan residence.
- A visit of the Wakayama Children's Choir, April 29 to May 3. The group consisted of 43 children and six adults.
- Wakayama Children's Choir held a concert at the Richmond Pentecostal Church.
- City of Richmond Official Delegation visit to Wakayama, Japan to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship.



Wakayama Children's Choir Visit ~ Tour of Stanley Park



**Wakayama Children's Choir Performance at
Richmond Pentecostal Church**



Dinner reception with Japan Consul General, Seiji Okada



City of Richmond Official Delegation visit to Wakayama, Japan to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship

May

- Sister City Advisory Committee elected Vice Chairs for Wakayama, Pierrefonds, Xiamen and Qingdao.

June

- Dinner reception at Consul General of China residence.



Mayor Malcolm Brodie with China Consul General, LIU Fei

July

- The SCAC participated in the annual Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.



September

- In commemoration of the 45th Anniversary (2012) of the Sister City relationship with Pierrefonds, the City of Richmond received a painting gift from Mayor Monique Worth (on display in the Councillors office area).



October

- Qingdao Xiabaifan Art School came to Richmond October 3 – 5, 2013.
The special performance titled *“From East to West”* held at the River Rock Show Theatre on October 5, of the world famous dance school from Qingdao, commemorates five years of official friendship status with the City of Qingdao and attracted approximately 820 people in attendance.



Qingdao Xiabaifan Art School Reception and Performance