



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 19, 2017
From: Amarjeet S. Rattan **File:** 01-0100-30-SCIT1-
 Director, Intergovernmental Relations and 01/2017-Vol 01
 Protocol Unit
Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee 2016 Year In Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Sister City Advisory Committee 2016 Year In Review" dated April 19, 2017, from the Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Protocol Unit, be received for information.

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

Att. 1

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

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) 2016 Year in Review Report.

Findings of Fact

The primary purpose of the City of Richmond's Sister City Program is to foster a mutual understanding and meaningful cultural connections with designated Sister/Friendship cities in the interests of Richmond 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 the 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, Québec 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 2016 are outlined in **Attachment 1**.

Some of the highlights for 2016 include:

- January - *Newly appointed committee members were introduced at the first meeting of 2016*: the SCAC welcomed seven new members for the 2016 term.
- May - *Annual Richmond – Wakayama Student Exchange Visit*: A group of 21 Wakayama students and four teachers visited Richmond as part of the annual student exchange program organized by the Richmond School District and supported by the Sister City Program.
- July - *Steveston Salmon Festival Parade*: SCAC members and supporters participated in the annual Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.
- July - *SCAC Richmond Youth Table Tennis Tournament*: The SCAC organized its inaugural youth table tennis tournament at the Richmond Olympic Oval and featured student teams from Xiamen, Qingdao and Richmond.

- October – *Wakayama Delegation Visit*: An official Council delegation from Wakayama visited Richmond. Delegation activities included the opening of Steveston Town Square Park and site visit to Maybog Cranberry Farms.
- November – *Xiamen Sport Delegation Visit*: Members of the Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Sports met with members of the Richmond School District and Richmond Sport Council to discuss future exchanges of sports teams.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

The 2016 Sister City Advisory Committee events and activities provide a foundation to further strengthen the existing Friendship and Sister City relationships.



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

AR:ar

Att. 1: SCAC 2016 Year in Review document

City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2016 Year in Review

2016 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory 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). The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) had another busy year in 2016. Information from various SCAC activities and events is outlined in the following pages.

2016 Committee Members:

Chair

Vice-Chair, Wakayama

Vice-Chair, Xiamen

Vice-Chair, Qingdao

Vice Chair, Pierrefonds

Members

Hans Havas

Kevin Lainchbury

Helen Quan

Eden Jiang Zhang

Tony Kwan

Glenn Kishi

Ihsan Malik

Shaolin Rahman

Howard Smythe

Iryna Vodchenko

Michelle Chen

Michael Sirota

Stanley Yeh

Council Liaison

Councillor Bill McNulty

School Board Liaison

Alice Wong

Eric Yung (Alternate)

January

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



Members of the 2016 Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee

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

May

- 21 students and four teachers from Wakayama visited Richmond as part of the annual student exchange visit, organized by the Richmond School District and supported by the SCAC.



Wakayama students meet with Mayor and Councillors



Wakayama students learning about Richmond's Sister City Program



Wakayama students visit Steveston Village

July

- SCAC members and supporters participated in the annual Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.



- The SCAC hosted the inaugural Richmond Sister-Friendship Youth Table Tennis Tournament. Student teams from Xiamen, Qingdao and Richmond came together to experience the excitement and challenge of playing against other outstanding table tennis players in this three day event.



Youth Table Tennis Tournament participants in action



Welcoming Qingdao students at YVR Airport



Xiamen students tour Richmond and Vancouver

October

- The City hosted a Wakayama City Council delegation. During their visit members of Wakayama City council visited the Maybog Cranberry Farm, Steveston Village and the ROX at the Richmond Olympic Oval. In commemoration of their visit, a cherry tree was planted in the newly opened Steveston Village Town Square Park.



Richmond and Wakayama Council members attend the opening ceremony for Steveston Town Square Park



Cherry tree planting ceremony at Steveston Town Square Park



Wakayama delegation visit to the Maybog Cranberry Farm



Wakayama Council Vice Chair Masato Toda enjoys the cranberry harvest



Mayor Malcolm Brodie welcoming Wakayama delegation members to Richmond



Mayor Masahiro Obana visits Richmond Council Chambers

November

- A delegation from the Xiamen Municipal Bureau of Sports met with the Richmond School District and the Richmond Sports Council to discuss future exchanges of sports teams.

