



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** March 6, 2024
From: Jason Kita **File:** 01-0135-04-01/2024-
 Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Vol 01
 Corporate and Strategic Planning
Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee – 2023 Year in Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Sister City Advisory Committee – 2023 Year in Review,” dated March 6, 2024, from the Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Corporate and Strategic Planning be received for information.

Jason Kita
 Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Corporate and Strategic Planning
 (604-276-4091)

Att. 2

SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO
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Staff Report

Origin

The City of Richmond's Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) fosters mutual understanding and meaningful cultural and educational connections with designated Sister/Friendship Cities in the interest of Richmond citizens for their common benefit.

In alignment with the SCAC's Terms of Reference, this report provides an update to City Council on the work completed by the SCAC in 2023, in support of the Four Year Activity Plan, 2023-2026, approved by City Council on December 21, 2022.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

6.1 Advance a variety of programs, services, and community amenities to support diverse needs and interests and activate the community.

6.3 Foster intercultural harmony, community belonging, and social connections.

Findings of Fact

Background

The role and purpose of the SCAC is to provide advice to and assist Council with promoting the City's culture and values. The SCAC is also responsible for delivering the Sister City Program and pursuing the City's goal to establish and sustain cultural, educational and sustainable ties with approved Sister/Friendship Cities.

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

Summary of the 2023 Year in Review

Each year, the SCAC provides an update to City Council through the Year in Review (YIR) on activity highlights undertaken during the previous year. The 2023 SCAC YIR highlights (Attachment 1) support the approved Four Year Activity Plan – 2023-2026 (Attachment 2).

Some of the highlights from 2023 include:

- **50th milestone anniversary with Wakayama** – The Mayors and members of Council from the City of Richmond and City of Wakayama met to celebrate the milestone anniversary in Wakayama, Japan in June 2023. Throughout 2023, six street banners of Wakayama Castle in Wakayama were on display on Granville Avenue parallel to City

Hall and the milestone anniversary celebrations concluded with three Japanese black pine trees planted in a tree dedication ceremony with a delegation from Wakayama at Richmond City Hall.

- **15th milestone anniversary with Qingdao** – Qingdao donated 178 books to the Richmond Public Library to honour the 15th milestone friendship city anniversary.
- **Photo Exhibitions** – The Sister City Program continued to explore photo exhibition activities at the Cultural Centre. These were collaborations with our Sister/Friendship cities, for example, in celebration of the 15th anniversary with Qingdao and 50th anniversary with Wakayama.
- **Pen Pal Program** – School boards from the City of Richmond and City of Pierrefonds, Xiamen, and Qingdao partnered up under the Sister City Program to connect students as pen pals through greeting cards, letters, and emails. The Pen Pal Initiative continues to be well received and over 250 students participated in the program in 2023.
- **Steveston Salmon Festival Parade** – The committee participated in its first in-person parade since the 2019 Canada Day.
- **Sport Exchange Visits** – The Sister City Program supported sport exchange community group visits between Sister Cities in 2023:
 - 14 athletes from Richmond Islanders 2005 Softball Club visited Wakayama in July; and
 - eight students and six coaches from Wakayama Judo Club visited Richmond.

Looking Ahead

The SCAC work is well underway in 2024. Some of the activities planned for this year as part of the Sister City Program include:

- Exploring and continuing a variety of virtual and in-person education and cultural exchanges, such as:
 - Information exchanges, for example, best practices from Sister/Friendship cities; and
 - Student Pen Pal Exchanges with Pierrefonds, Xiamen, and Qingdao.
- Supporting and encouraging in-person activities and visits, such as:
 - 12 students from Richmond's Japanese Language Program participating in Japan Bowl; and
 - The Steveston Judo Club to travel to Wakayama for a tournament and tour of the Sister City.
- Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sister City Advisory Committee through a photo exhibition at the Cultural Centre.
- Continuing to work to future-proof the committee's legacy and future work, for example:
 - Manage digital files and photos, including the archival process; and
 - Establish and strengthen ties with Sister/Friendship city committees worldwide and share best practices.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The 2023-2026 Four Year Activity Plan for the Sister City Program provides a structure to deliver activities to continue to promote cultural and educational exchanges along with understanding and meaningful connections with the City's Sister/Friendship cities. While 2023 was a year of milestone celebrations, it also provided opportunities to continue virtual activities, as well as marking a return to in-person activities.



Alisa Carey
Manager, Intergovernmental Relations
(604-247-4695)

- Att. 1: SCAC 2023 Year in Review
2: SCAC Four Year Activity Plan, 2023-2026



City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2023 Year in Review

2023 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) 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). Highlights from various SCAC activities are outlined in the following pages and the highlights report can be found on www.richmond.ca/sistercity.

2023 Committee Members:

Chair	Lisa MacNeil
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Charan Gill
Vice-Chair, Wakayama	Polly Tang
Vice-Chair, Xiamen	Sue Tian
Vice-Chair, Qingdao	Melissa Zhang
Members	Allen Chan
	Danny Chen
	Joan Page
	Karen Shigeno
	William Ying
	Jenny Zhang
	Mandy Zhao
	Victor Zhuo
 Council Liaison	 Councillor Andy Hobbs
 School Board Liaison	 David Yang Alice Wong (Alternate)

2023 Sister City Program Highlights

January

- The newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.
- The SCAC elected:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair, Pierrefonds;
 - Vice Chair, Wakayama;
 - Vice Chair, Xiamen; and
 - Vice Chair, Qingdao.
- The City of Richmond sent Lunar New Year greetings to Xiamen and Qingdao.



Lunar New Year Greeting from Council (left) and Sister City Advisory Committee (right)

- As part of the preparations for the 50th milestone anniversary with Wakayama City, the SCAC reached out to advisory committees to participate in making senbazuru (paper cranes) as a gift from community group volunteers. The SCAC hosted a paper-folding social with the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee and the Richmond Centre for Disability.



Paper Folding Social with the Seniors Advisory Committee and Richmond Centre for Disability

February

- To celebrate Valentine's Day, 30 Richmond Kindergarten students continued the practice of creating Valentine's Day greeting cards to send to seniors at Manoir Pierrefonds, a senior's residence home in Pierrefonds, Quebec.



Valentines Greetings for seniors at Manoir Pierrefonds

- SCAC continued to work on digitizing documents and photos with assistance from the Richmond Archives as part of an ongoing project to preserve historical records leading up to the committee's 50th anniversary in 2024.

March

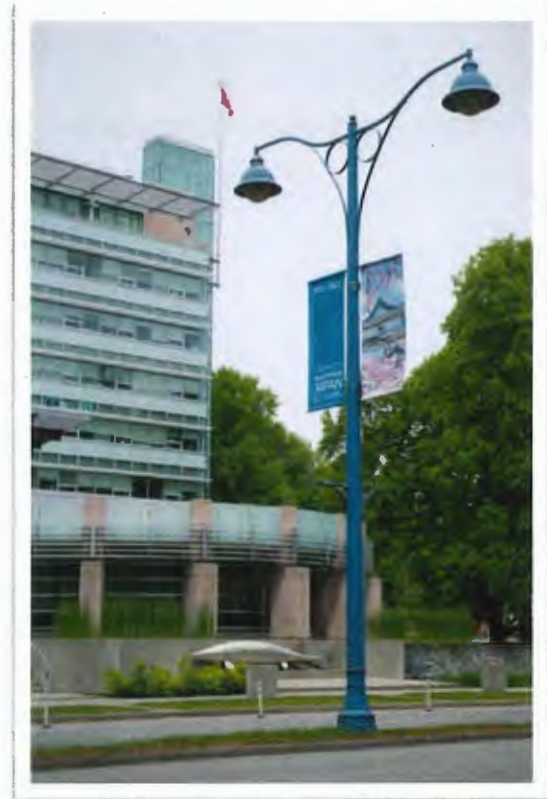
- On March 11, seven teams from Richmond high schools participated in the Japan Bowl® competition. The Japan Bowl is a Japanese language and culture competition for high school students who are studying Japanese sponsored in part by the Government of Japan, the Japan Embassy in Vancouver, and the Nikkei Centre. The final round consisted of three teams of which two were from Richmond ("4-ever" and "大吉" (Daikichi). In the end, it was the non-Richmond team that won.



Japan Bowl Competition at Nikkei Centre

- In early 2022, the Sister City Program launched a street banner photo contest in Wakayama, similar to the photo contest held in Richmond. Wakayama resident, Izuru Matsubayashi's photo, titled "Cherry Blossoms at Wakayama Castle" was selected as the winner.

The "Look Up" street banner was created to celebrate the 50th milestone anniversary between the City of Richmond and the City of Wakayama. The cities twinned on July 16, 1973. Six street banners were installed on Granville Avenue between No. 3 Road and Minoru Boulevard, outside Richmond City Hall.



Wakayama Street Banner on Granville Ave

April

- On April 2, 2023, SCAC members hosted a booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival to promote the Sister City Program and 50th milestone anniversary with Wakayama, Japan to the community. The booth featured display boards with information about the Sister City Program. The community enjoyed the Take & Make craft project to make a cherry blossom tree.



Sister City Program Booth at Cherry Blossom Festival in Steveston and Take & Make Kit

- From April 3 to June 1, 2023, the SCAC hosted a Sister City Photo Exhibition to celebrate the 50th milestone anniversary with Wakayama, Japan and the 15th milestone anniversary with Qingdao, China. Photos were on display at the Richmond Cultural Centre – Minoru Hall Gallery with the theme of “2008 Olympic Legacy” showing the pictures of Qingdao in addition to the “Look Up” Street Banner Photo Contest Winner Izuru Matsubayashi’s photo.



Sister City Photo Exhibition – Wakayama and Qingdao

- The cities of Richmond and Qingdao celebrated their 15th milestone anniversary on April 22, 2023 with letters from both Mayors.

- On April 25, 2023, Xiamen City launched the “Friends of Xiamen” book club. This book club featured residents from Richmond, Canada; Xiamen, China (host); Baltimore and Sarasota, USA; Wellington, New Zealand; and Sunshine Coast and Sydney, Australia who read “Off The Wall How We Fell For China” by Professor William Brown. The book club concluded a month later with a virtual *Meet the Author* event.



Richmond Public Library display of “Friends of Xiamen” book club

May

- SCAC committee members unveiled the new committee logo to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary and to promote the committee’s establishment in 1974.



Sister City Advisory Committee new logos

- SCAC was featured in the Richmond Archives ArchiveNews Spring Newsletter:

Richmond Sister City Committee

The Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) has a lot to celebrate these days. In 2022, Richmond observed two milestones: 55 year Sister City anniversary with Pierrefonds, Quebec and 10 year anniversary with Xiamen, China. This year, the SCAC will be honouring the 50th anniversary milestone with Wakayama, Japan and 15 year anniversary with Friendship City Qingdao, China. Finally, in 2024, SCAC will itself be marking 50 years since Richmond Municipal Council formed the “Sister City Twinning Committee” on February 11, 1974. With all of these important events to observe, the SCAC, and in particular Chair Lisa MacNeil, have spent time at the City of Richmond Archives researching their records in our holdings. There is a significant amount of records to review as well: correspondence, minutes, newsletters, general and operational records, scrapbooks and photo albums.

Richmond Archives ArchiveNews Spring Newsletter (Spring 2023 | Volume 28, Number 1)

- As the pandemic protocols and travel restrictions continued into 2023, the Richmond-Wakayama Student Exchange did not happen. The schools continue to engage in virtual activities and Richmond students also participated with the community volunteer groups in folding senbazuru (paper cranes) for the 50th anniversary with Wakayama.



Student-made senbazuru (paper cranes)

- April is National Card Writing Month. Schools in Richmond and Qingdao created greeting cards to celebrate the 15th milestone friendship anniversary. These cards arrived in May.



Greetings from Qingdao elementary school students

- During May, Qingdao hosted a photo exhibition featuring Richmond at May Fourth Square Metro Station. May Fourth Square, also known as Wu Si Guang Chang, is a large public square in Qingdao's central business district. It is located between the new municipal government building and Fushan Bay and is composed of Shizhengting Square, the central square and the coastal park. Photos highlighted City of Richmond in celebration of the 15th milestone friendship anniversary.



Photo Exhibition on Richmond at May Fourth Square



Scan the QR code to view the video

- An outcome from last year's celebration of the 55th milestone anniversary of Pierrefonds and Richmond's Sister City relationship, delegations from Pierrefonds & Richmond met in Toronto, Ontario on May 26, 2023. The delegations were in Toronto to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference.



From left to right: Councillor Benoît Langevin, Councillor Laura Gillanders, Mayor Jim Beis, Councillor Chahi (Sharkey) Tarakjian

June

- A delegation from Richmond met in Wakayama, Japan on June 17, 2023 for an official celebration. During this visit, delegation members participated in sightseeing around Wakayama, a Maple Tree Planting Ceremony at Tei Park in Nishiteikou, and meetings to discuss future plans. The overall sentiments were mutual in how to make the Sister City relationship stronger, reintroduce annual school visits, and explore virtual activities. Lots of appreciation for those before us for the work they put into this relationship and encouragement to continue the path for future generations to enjoy.



Official Delegation Group Photo

Richmond Participants

Mayor Malcolm Brodie
 Councillor Chak Au
 Councillor Bill McNulty
 Ms. Serena Lusk
 Mr. Mike Romas
 Ms. Lisa MacNeil
 Mr. Kevin Lainchbury

Wakayama Participants

Mayor Masahiro Obana
 Councillor Niwa Naoko
 Councillor Yamanaka Toshio
 Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi
 Mr. Hayashi (Henry) Hideaki
 Ms. Yoshiko Kitagawa
 Mr. Hiroshi Agata
 Mr. Masahiko Honda
 Mr. Keiichiro Suzaki
 Mr. Akinobu Senzaki
 Mr. Yasuyoshi Takemoto
 Ms. Yutsuki Uchita
 Ms. Yu Yamamoto
 Mr. Shinya Bando
 Mr. Shingo Kawamura
 Ms. Miki Tashima
 Mr. Jacob Teichrib



Courtesy Call on Mayors



Sugar Maple Tree Planting Ceremony



Welcome Event



Sister City to Sister City Gift

July

- The Sister City Advisory Committee continued to celebrate the 50th milestone anniversary of Wakayama and Richmond’s Sister City relationship with activities in the community in July. The cities twinned on July 16, 1973.



Wakayama Sister City Exhibition

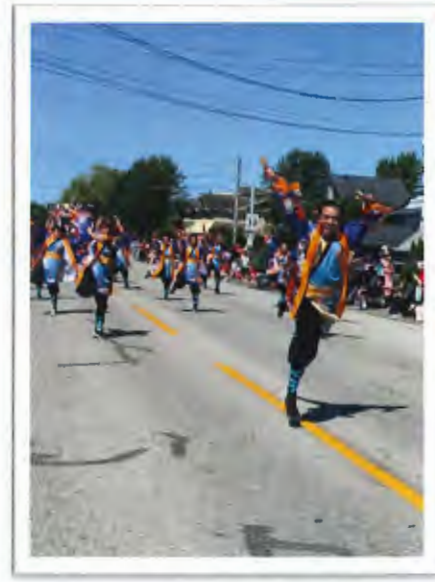


Walk Richmond – Sister City Walk

- On July 1, 2023, SCAC members participated in the Steveston Salmon Festival. Fifty volunteers participated in the parade entry including the Taiko 55 Drummers, Appare Yosakoi Dance Troupe, Japan Bowl competition students, and Richmond community volunteers.



Sister City Advisory Committee entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade



Taiko 55 Drummers (left) and Appare Yosakoi Dance Troupe (right) in the SCAC entry to the Steveston Salmon Festival

- On July 4, 2023, 14 athletes, one coach, and two chaperones from the Richmond Islanders 2005 softball club visited Wakayama, Japan. The City of Richmond supported this trip as a SCP sport exchange activity. The athletes participated in an exchange of questions and answers about each other's culture; a cooking class to learn how to make miso soup; and having lunch and an afternoon of folding paper cranes with students at Wakayama High School. The group was extremely impressed with the warm reception they received from Wakayama.

**Exchanges through cooking training, etc.
Canadian high school students visit Ichi
Wakayama High School**

2023/7/5 20:00



Sankei WEST | life life | Life region | Kinki Wakayama



Wakayama Municipal High School students and Richmond high school students making miso soup together = Wakayama City

Media Post of Softball Visit

September

- In celebration of the 15th Friendship City anniversary with Richmond, Qingdao donated books to residents of Richmond. This donation of 178 books is under the Nishan Book Corner Program, which is an initiative to donate books to residents in Qingdao's friendship cities with the goal of learning about China and Qingdao. In partnership with Richmond Public Library, SCAC accepted this donation.



Book Display at Richmond Public Library

October

- On October 2, 2023, Pierrefonds City Council met in their Council Chambers as usual; in the background were the street banners that were gifted from the City of Richmond to the City of Pierrefonds. These were the street banners that were displayed along Granville Avenue in 2022 recognizing our 55th anniversary with City of Pierrefonds. Pierrefonds is looking into displaying the street banner on Richmond Street in 2024 before filing in the Pierrefonds Archives.



55th Anniversary Street Banners in Pierrefonds Council Chambers

- The 50th English Recitation Contest held in Wakayama for junior high students provides an opportunity for students to practice delivering a passage from a book in English. Wakayama requested Richmond to participate in honour of our 50th anniversary. Mayor Brodie provided a welcome message to all the competitors and SCAC sourced out awards for first, second, and third place winners.



Welcome Message by Mayor Brodie



Coin Awards

November

- From November 13-20, 2023, eight students and six coaches from the Wakayama Judo Club travelled to Richmond, Canada. The City of Richmond supported this trip as a SCP sport exchange activity. The Judo group participated in Judo training sessions and tournaments.



Wakayama Judo Club visit to Richmond

- On November 16, 2023, a ceremony was held to dedicate three Japanese black pines to the Wakayama Sister City Garden located at Richmond City Hall. The Japanese black pines, more commonly known as Kuromatsu in Japan, were planted to symbolize the strong relationship between Richmond and Wakayama. The event was attended by Mayor Malcolm Brodie, the Consul-General of Japan in Vancouver, Kohei Maruyama, members of Council, representatives of Richmond's Sister City Advisory Committee, and a member from Wakayama's Sister City Committee. In addition, a delegation of athletes and coaches from the Wakayama Judo Club attended the ceremony.

The ceremony included speeches and a ribbon cutting. The event was held exactly five months after the tree planting ceremony in Wakayama, Japan, highlighting the close relationship between the two cities.



Japanese Black Pine Tree Dedication Ceremony

- On November 23, 2023, 27 Grade 4/5 students from Lord Byng elementary school participated in an art workshop with Wakayama artist, Hisayuki Doi. The students learned 2D painting. This was an activity in partnership with Richmond Art Coalition. Their artwork will be featured in an online exhibition launching in January 2024.



Wakayama Artist Hisayuki Doi leads workshop with Richmond students

December

- The SCAC scored each of the Sister/Friendship cities participation over the past year. All cities achieved a highly engaged score on the Sister City Program's annual relationship scorecard.
- The committee members continued to work on Project 2024, a project to future-proof SCAC's legacy and set up processes for the future. The work includes:
 - Writing governance documents for the digital files and photo management started in with consultation with Richmond Archives;
 - Creating a membership list of all appointment committee members from 1974 to 2024; and
 - Building a robust assets inventory.



2023 Sister City Advisory Committee

2023 Acknowledgements

City Council Appointed Advisory Boards

- Public Library Board
- Seniors Advisory Committee

City of Richmond Partners

- Arts Services
- Corporate Communications
- Development Applications
- Economic Development
- Events and Film
- Museum & Heritage Services
- Production Centre
- Richmond Archives
- Sports & Community Events

Community Partners

- Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni of BC (JETAABC)
- Metro Vancouver Japan Bowl
- Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre - Education Program
- Richmond Art Coalition
- Richmond Arts Centre
- Richmond Art Gallery
- Richmond Centre for Disability
- Richmond Museum
- Richmond Public Library
- Richmond School Board
- Sister City Advisory Committee Alumni
- Textile Arts Guild of Richmond (TAGOR)
- Tourism Richmond
- Walk Richmond

Special Thank You

- Mayor Malcolm Brodie
- Councillor Chak Au
- Councillor Carol Day
- Councillor Laura Gillanders
- Councillor Kash Heed
- Councillor Andy Hobbs
- Councillor Alexa Loo
- Councillor Bill McNulty
- Councillor Michael Wolfe

Thank You to

City of Pierrefonds, Wakayama City, City of Xiamen, and City of Qingdao



Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee

Four Year Activity Plan Proposal
2023 - 2026

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2022 Sister City Advisory Committee Members:

Chair

Lisa MacNeil

Vice-Chairs

Allen Chan

Glenn Kishi

Melissa Zhang

Victor Zhuo

Members

Charan Gill

Joan Page

Karen Shigeno

Nick Sturtevant

School Board

Ken Hamaguchi

Debbie Tablotney

Polly Tang

Sue Tian

David Yang

Jenny Zhang

Building meaningful connections in our global community

The past four years have been rather unique yet we learned so much. Going into 2019, the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) wanted to broaden our reach in Richmond with more non-visit activities. 2020 provided us with new possibilities and opportunities as we learned to live within pandemic times. SCAC initiated dialogue with community partners, participated in community events and co-hosted internationally known authors in partnership with Richmond Public Library. Video platforms like Zoom opened up communication with our sister/friendship cities to real-time exchange of ideas. As a committee, we look forward to continuing this path and seeing more experiences between our residents and the residents of Pierrefonds, Quebec; Wakayama, Japan; Xiamen & Qingdao, China.

CP - 48

Sister City Advisory Committee
City of Richmond
October 2022

2023 – 2026 Activity Goals

- ✓ Build on current relationships with sister/friendship cities
- ✓ Promote Sustainability & Active Living
- ✓ Continue exploring non-visit activities and showcase innovative programs around the city
- ✓ Consider activities for ALL age groups
- ✓ Encourage more information sharing
- ✓ Develop archival process to preserve Sister City Program collection

COVID PANDEMIC NOTE:
This plan was made in late 2021 / early 2022 when the COVID 19 pandemic continued. Given the uncertainty at what may happen in the time span of this proposal, this plan is subject to change.

Sister City

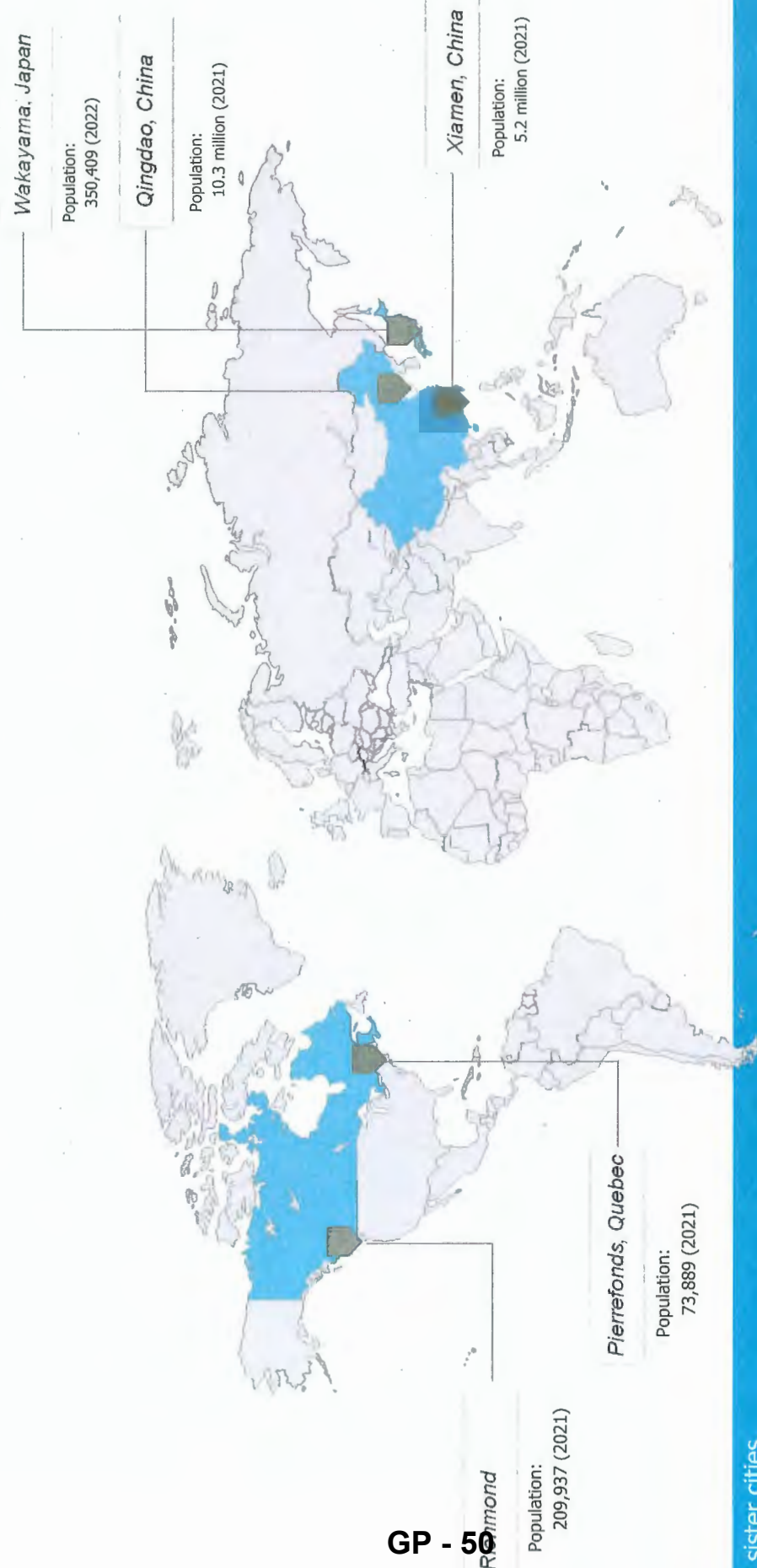
a city that is linked to another,
usually for the purposes of
cultural exchange

GP - 49

Friendship City

less formal relationship than
sister city

Definition



GP - 50

3 sister cities
Pierrefonds, Quebec | Wakayama, Japan | Xiamen, China
 1 friendship city
Qingdao, China

Relationship Review

All cities rated highly engaged since 2019

Goals in the upcoming four years:

GP - 51

Pierrefonds

- Continue building on strong relationship

Wakayama

- Document Budget Planning Timeline
- Encourage non-visit activities

Xiamen

- Explore education non-visit activities

Qingdao

- Explore education non-visit activities

Activity Summary

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Annual Base Program Activities (Visit)				
Education	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds	Pierrefonds
Active Living	TBC	Wakayama	Wakayama	Wakayama
	TBC	TBC	Hockey Jamboree	Xiamen: FIFA Football
		TBC	Kendo	TBC
			Choir	
Annual Base Program Activities (Non-Visit)				
Annual "state of the city" letter	X	X	X	X
Exchanges of cities' annual reports and city plans	X	X	X	X
SCAC Year in Review Summary	X	X	X	X
Community Engagement	X	X	X	X
Activities	X	X	X	X
Relationship Activities				
Anniversary Milestones	Wakayama (50 years) Qingdao (15 years)			
City Council/Delegation Visits		to be scheduled		
Activity Plan Relationship Review				X
Future Twinnings				
Explore new Sister City Relationship	X	X	X	X

Outbound Activity

Budget Summary

	2023	2024	2025	2026
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Annual Base Program Activities

Education	\$17,000	\$22,000	\$14,000	\$22,000
Active Living	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Arts	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$23,000	\$15,000
Community Engagement	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000

Relationship Activities

Anniversary Milestones*	TBA			
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Administration

Administration Costs	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
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SUBTOTAL (year total)	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000
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GRAND TOTAL			\$284,000	
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*Official celebration plans in separate report to Mayor & Council

Annual Base Program Activities

Visits

Education

Student Exchanges/Visits

- ✓ Student exchanges/visits include opportunities to inbound/outbound to sister cities
 - Continue annual exchanges with Wakayama, Japan
 - Explore school visits to Montreal (Pierrefonds)

Pierrefonds
Wakayama
Xiamen
Qingdao

inbound & outbound

Students

Budget Breakdown:

- Outbound visit
 - \$500 per student participant
 - up to maximum **\$10,000** for each annual student exchange
- Inbound visit
 - \$200 per student participant
 - up to maximum **\$4,000** for each annual student exchange

NOTE:

Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)

Active Living

Sport Exchanges

<p>GP - 56</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p>	<p>up to 2 activities annually inbound & outbound</p> <p>Adult</p> <p>Youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sport exchanges open to ALL age groups ✓ Competitions or Skills Clinics ✓ Schedule of Inbound & Outbound activities to be confirmed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inbound activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2025: Richmond Hockey Jamboree • Outbound activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2025: Kendo Club ◦ July/August 2026: Xiamen Youth FIFA Football 	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbound visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$500 per athlete ◦ up to maximum \$10,000 for each athletic exchange • Inbound visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$200 per athlete ◦ up to maximum \$4,000 for each athletic exchange 	<p>NOTE: Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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Active Living

Hockey Jamboree: 2023 (virtual) | 2025 (in person)

<p>GP - 57</p> <p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p> <p>virtual (2023) & inbound (2025) activity</p> <p>Youth</p>	<p>✓ Hockey Jamboree to discuss / practice player skills development with sister/friendship cities in virtual format (2023) & in person format (2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023: virtual Zoom workshop to discuss respective minor hockey systems (from Intro Hockey to the NHL) • 2025: in-person Hockey Jamboree in Richmond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jamboree to include 1) mixing all the players up and form new teams AND 2) a skills program (hockey school) 	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 (virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ up to \$3,000 for video taping • 2025 (Inbound) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ up to maximum \$10,000 for jamboree <p>NOTE: Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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Performing Arts

NEW! Richmond Youth Honour Choir (RYHC)

<p>GP - 58</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p> <p>outbound activity</p> <p>Youth</p>	<p>✓ Choir exchanges include opportunities to inbound/outbound to sister cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025: Wakayama <p>✓ Choir available for participation in delegate visits</p> <p>More details about RYHC can be found at https://ryhc.org/</p>	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outbound visit<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ \$500 per participant○ up to maximum \$10,000 for each exchange <p>NOTE: Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)</p>
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Annual Base Program Activities

Non-Visits

Education

Non-visit Activities

- ✓ Non-visit activities to engage students & teachers
 - Pilot sharing of lesson plans with educator in sister city
 - Pen Pal Exchanges - Pierrefonds & Qingdao elementary school level
 - Information Exchanges | Artwork Exchanges
 - Exploring Sustainability activities
 - Pierrefonds: Postal Art Poetry

Budget Breakdown:

- up to maximum **\$3,000** annually
 - cover costs of supplies and shipping costs

GP - 60

Pierrefonds

up to

2 activities annually

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

Students

Education

2023 Japan Bowl®

- ✓ Secondary school competition around Japanese culture sponsored in part by the Government of Japan, local Japan Embassy and Nikkei Centre
 - Target: Richmond students who are in the Japanese Language Program
 - Sister City Program to present talk on sister city relationship with Wakayama

Event website:

<https://www.jetaabc.ca/news/2022-metro-vancouver-japan-bowl/>

Video of event - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1G-SzFc28E>

Budget Breakdown:

- Giveaways
- In-kind contribution
- Team registration fees

Pierrefonds - 61 GP

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

Students

Art & Culture

Richmond Public Library - Book Club

<p>GP - 62</p> <p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p> <p>1 program annually inbound & outbound</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Launch various programs to coordinate sharing of information with sister city libraries with various target audiences from young children to seniors. The activity plan would be to continue or expand on successful activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ One Book, up to Five Cities adult book club<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023: Wakayama Public Library to recommend book✓ StoryWalk® young children<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer sample stories to libraries in our sister/friendship cities✓ Commemorative Milestone Anniversary Bookmarks<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023: share with Wakayama & Qingdao Public Library	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sister Cities to participate in Richmond Public Library book club program• Bookmarks: printing & distribution
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Art & Culture

NEW! Take & Make It!

GP - 63

Pierrefonds
Wakayama
Xiamen
Qingdao

City Events &
School Activities

Adult

Youth

- ✓ Take & Make crafts for all ages with a cultural inspiration from our sister/friendship cities to be used with schools, at City events (Culture Days) and as giveaways
- QR code business cards to share instructions on how to make craft
 - Paper folding - fans & origami
 - Calligraphy - Chinese & Japanese Shūji
 - Canada Day crafts
 - Koinobori kite making
 - Chinese knot tying
 - Teru Teru Bozu (Japanese Sunshine Doll)

Culture Days website

[City of Richmond - Culture Days](#)

Budget Breakdown:

- Printing of instructions
- Supplies

Annual Base Program Activities

Information Exchange

Information Exchange

About Richmond

✓ Build a toolkit of information requested by our sister/friendship cities from richmond.ca website & from Tourism Richmond

- Topics
 - Brief introductory to Richmond
 - Population - Stats Canada data source
 - Promotional videos
 - Photos including aerial view
 - Educational Institutions
 - Sustainability Practices
 - Other sister/friendship cities

Budget Breakdown:

- no cost

Pierrefonds
GP - 65

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

as requested

Updated annually

Information Exchange

Speaker Series

<p>GP - 66</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>1+ sessions annually</p> <p>Adult Youth</p>	<p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p>	<p>Launch interactive sessions with sister/friendship cities to promote sharing of information utilizing new technology at RPL. The activity plan would be to continue or expand on successful activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's Go! virtual tours of sister/friendship cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live or prerecorded sessions via Zoom of local attractions, parks, cultural events, museums and libraries <p>Speakers Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations on cultural customs, cuisine & crafts <p>Virtual Sister/Friendship City Youth Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students chat with youth in French, Japanese & Chinese to learn about each other and each other's culture 	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers Fee: estimate between \$500 - \$4,000
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Information Exchange

Community Groups / Advisory Committees

<p>GP - 67</p> <p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p> <p>as requested Virtually</p> <p>All</p>	<p>✓ Knowledge sharing between like groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial thoughts<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Advisory Committees○ City Staff○ Community Groups○ Community Partners	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no cost
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Annual Base Program Activities

Community Engagement

Community Engagement

Participation in City Events / Activities

<p>GP - 69</p>	<p>Annual Parade & up to 2 City Events</p>	<p>Pierrefonds Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p>	<p>Sister City Advisory Committee members participate in activities to increase Community Engagement and sharing of experiences with our sister/friendship cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Steveston Salmon Festival Activation ✓ City Events - exhibitor booth ✓ Sister City Program theme Geocaching (2024) 	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event booth decorations • T-shirts for parade participants • Parade entry decorations • Handouts for attendees
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Community Engagement

Walk Richmond - community walks

<p>GP - 70</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p>	<p>Partner with Walk Richmond to coordinate sister city community walks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Pierrefonds walk<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting at Pierrefonds Sister City Garden at City Hall• Ending at Pierrefonds Garden by Minoru Chapel✓ Wakayama walk<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Similar to Pierrefonds walk• Garry Point Park to Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site✓ Xiamen & Qingdao walk<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park (TBC)	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giveaways
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Community Engagement

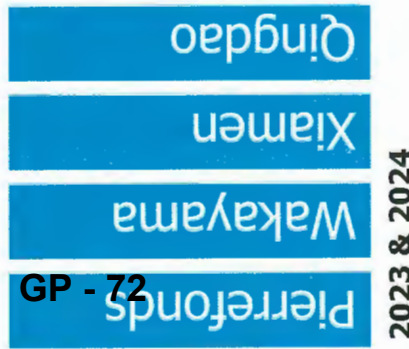
Photo Exhibition

<p>GP - 71</p> <p>Pierrefonds up to 2 activities annually inbound</p>	<p>✓ Photo shows at Cultural Centre to showcase sister/friendship cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upper Rotunda - 15 photos highlighting city ▪ Atrium - 8 photos highlighting theme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2023: Public Art ○ 2024: Fire Halls (to be confirmed) ○ 2025: to be confirmed ○ 2026: to be confirmed 	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,000 annually for photo development
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Community Engagement

Richmond Museum

<p>✓</p>	<p>Share artefacts collected from Sister City Program at Richmond Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 2023 - Wakayama• February 2024 - Sister City Program	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No cost
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Annual Base Program Activities

Milestone Anniversaries

Milestone Celebrations

Occurring in 2023

<p>GP - 74 Pierrefonds</p>	<p>Wakayama Xiamen Qingdao</p>	<p>✓ Two major milestones will be celebrated in 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wakayama: 50 year anniversary (July)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Official celebration plans in separate report to Mayor & Council• Qingdao: 15 year anniversary (April)	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBA
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2 milestone celebrations

Milestone Celebrations

Street Banner Contest

Pierrefonds GP - 75

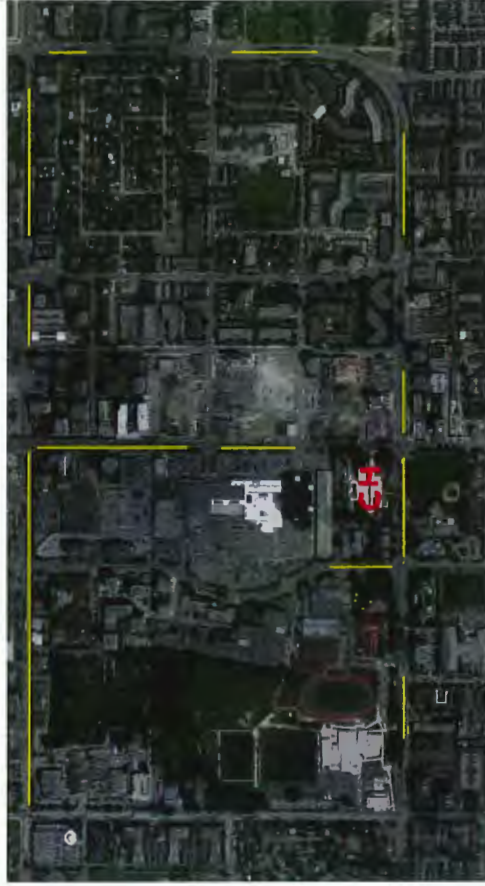
Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

2023

- ✓ 2023 Street Banner IN Richmond to be designed by individual IN Wakayama sharing a photo of a landmark in Wakayama
 - around City Hall



Budget Breakdown:

- estimate around ~\$1.5K

Community Spaces

Community Tribute Space/Site

Community Tribute Space/Site

Create a community tribute to sister city

Pierrefonds
GP - 77

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

- ✓ Recommendation for a commemorative space (i.e. garden or public art piece) to recognize the sister city relationship with Wakayama
 - Location: to be recommended by city staff
 - Installation by 2026 for next MOU signing with City of Wakayama
 - Tone: elegance garden / public art piece or garden structure such as pergola
 - Committee to collaborate with local Japanese community groups
 - Ask to Staff to further investigate

Annual Sister City Program Activities

Administration

Administration

Operational & Relationship Activities

<p>GP - 79</p> <p>Pierrefonds</p> <p>Wakayama</p> <p>Xiamen</p> <p>Qingdao</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Annual administrative costs✓ Letters between Mayors - annual "state of the city" letter✓ Exchanges of City Annual Reports	<p>Budget Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$11,000 annual administrative costs
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Administration

Project 2024

Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee will celebrate **50 years** on February 11, 2024. In order to continue building meaningful connections with our global community, the committee must do our part to future proof our legacy and set up processes for the future. Steps to be taken:

- ✓ Digital File & Photo Management including archival process
- ✓ Website Enhancements
- ✓ Document activity timelines for each city
- ✓ Document names of current & past committee members
- ✓ Our extended family - establish & strengthen ties with sister city committees around the world sharing best practices

Celebration in February 2024

- Photo Exhibition
- Update committee logo used for online & print communications

Appendix

Looking to the Past

Report adopted by Council, February 11, 1974, Resolution 157.

The Mayor and Aldermen,
Corporation of the Township
of Richmond,
Hamlet of Hill,
Richmond, N.Y.

Index and Synthesis:

As Council was aware, Richmond has entered into relationships with Montreal, Quebec and Tokyo, Japan, the latter being formalized during 1974. The working with these cities, but particularly with Tokyo, has evidenced a great deal of interest and we are now getting into the position of requiring a correlation of our efforts in this regard.

This is particularly true in the field of expanded exchange of our students, young people in general, and to a certain extent the participation by various members of our community.

Richmond has set up a Committee called "The Sister City Twinning Committee" and this is generally composed of members of Council, some members of the senior staff and a large number of citizens. The members of the committee are: the Mayor, the Mayor's Council, the Board of Trade, Social Organizations, Religious Organizations, and other interested citizens. The Twinning Committee functions under the chairmanship of a Dr. Egan, and he is very active in providing sister city relationships.

It is therefore the recommendation to this Council that a sister-city committee, to be called "The Sister City Twinning Committee", be organized and it is suggested that Mr. Jim Murray be appointed as its chairperson. It is suggested that Mr. Murray and our Chief Administrator be given the authority to invite persons to be members of this Committee, with a particular view to obtaining a good cross-section of our citizens. It is further suggested that Mr. Murray and Mr. Carroll report to Council from time to time on the activities of the Committee so that Council subsequently on the activities of the Committee so that Council and the public will be fully informed of the scope of the twinning activities.

I would earnestly recommend the adoption of this report.


MAYOR

Since inception of the Sister City Advisory Committee in February 1974, the objectives of the Sister City Program (SCP) remain the same:

- Carry out a continuing program of cultural exchanges
- Emphasize student and athletic exchange for the benefit of youth
- Promotion of better understanding of our cultures and ways of life

The addition in 2019 is SCP is inclusive of ALL ages to participate in activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SISTER CITY TWINNING COMMITTEE

1. To coordinate and organize exchanges between our Sister Cities, Montreal, Quebec, and Tokyo, Japan.
2. To carry out a continuing program of cultural exchanges for the benefit of our communities and citizens.
3. To emphasize student and athletic exchange for the benefit of our younger people.
4. To foster economic ties with our Sister Cities, wherever possible.
5. To continue to enhance our mutual friendship through the promotion of better understanding of our cultures and ways of life.

Funding Sources

	Funding Source & Website URL
1	Kiwanis Club https://richmondkiwanis.org/
2	KidSport https://kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/
3	Canadian Tire https://corp.canadiantire.ca/English/community/default.aspx
4	TELUS https://www.telus.com/en/social-impact/giving-back/community-grants?INTCMP=community-social-impact_home_cta_to_community-grants
5	Viasport BC funded by Province of BC viasport.ca/grants
6	Community Gaming grants for Recreation, Parks and Culture, Events and Celebration funded by Prov. of BC. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/community-gaming-grants
7	Civic Info BC has a grants database of federal, provincial grants https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/grants
8.	Government of Canada Youth Exchanges Grants - in Canada only https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/exchanges-canada/funding-organizations.html
9.	Richmond Rotary Clubs
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	