



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** February 5, 2026
From: Jason Kita **File:** 01-0135-04-01/2025-
 Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Vol 01
 Corporate and Strategic Planning
Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee – 2025 Year in Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the report titled “Sister City Advisory Committee – 2025 Year in Review,” dated February 5, 2026, 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

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	APPROVED BY CAO
Arts, Culture, & Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Corporate Communications & Marketing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	

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 alignment with the SCAC's Terms of Reference, this report provides a summary of highlights on the work completed by the SCAC in 2025.

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 program, 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 of the SCAC is to support and deliver the Sister City Program (SCP) and pursue the City's goal to establish and sustain cultural, educational, and sustainable ties with approved Sister/Friendship Cities.

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

Summary of the 2025 Year in Review

The SCAC provides an update to City Council annually through the Year in Review (YiR), highlighting key activities undertaken from the past year. The 2025 SCAC YiR (Attachment 1) supports the approved Four-Year Activity Plan – 2023-2026, approved by City Council on December 21, 2022 (Attachment 2).

Some of the highlights from 2025 include:

- Four visits occurred in 2025, two outbound and two inbound. For example:
 - School Exchange Visit – in partnership with SD38, Richmond welcomed 29 students and four chaperones from Wakayama City in November in an exchange of learning and cultural connections; and
 - Steveston Kendo Club Exchange Visit – approximately 14 members of the Steveston Kendo Club visited Wakayama City in March.

- Getting to Know Our Cities – the SCP continued collaborating with our Sister/Friendship Cities on the annual photo exhibition. This year’s theme was “gardens” and was on display at the Cultural Centre.

Looking Ahead

The SCAC work is underway for 2026. Some of the activities planned for this year as part of the SCP include:

- Showcasing the annual Getting to Know Our Cities photo exhibition with all four cities. This year’s theme is “Sister/Friendship City Festivals.”
- Supporting the Japan Bowl in Vancouver. The Japan Bowl is a Japanese language and culture competition for high school students who are studying Japanese and takes place in Vancouver in March.
- Continuing to support local community events such as the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Steveston Salmon Festival.
- Exploring and continuing a variety of virtual and in-person educational and cultural exchanges.

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 and meaningful connections with the City’s Sister/Friendship Cities. 2025 continued to build on annual and new activities to sustain cultural and educational connections between our Sister/Friendship Cities.



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

- Att. 1: SCAC 2025 Year in Review
2: SCAC Four-Year Activity Plan, 2023-2026



RICHMOND SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2025 Year in Review



Our Sister and Friendship Cities

Sister Cities

Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada — established 1967

Wakayama, Japan — established 1973

Xiamen, China — established 2012

Friendship City

Qingdao, China — established 2008

A Message from our Chair

Reflecting on 2025, we take great pride in the accomplishments of the Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee in during its 51st year. Guided by a shared commitment to cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and global friendship, our dedicated Committee worked collaboratively to strengthen meaningful international relationships.

This year's activities—including cultural exchanges, virtual learning, and artistic showcases—were made possible through the valued support of Richmond City Council, our community partners, our Sister/Friendship Cities, and staff. Together, we are building bridges of friendship that span the globe, right here from Richmond.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain inspired to build on this momentum and further strengthen these enduring relationships, creating benefits for all involved.

Thank you for your support.

The Committee is pleased to share the 2025 highlights!

Melissa Zhang

Chair, Sister City Advisory Committee

2025 Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee



From left to right, top to bottom: *William Ying, E-Von Lai, Andy Cheung, Danny Chen, Niña Pangilinan, Jordan Oye, Anna Fei, Theresa Chen, Melissa Zhang, Councillor Andy Hobbs*

Absent: Trustee Alice Wong, Charan Gill, and Qin Ji

2025 Committee Members

Chair	Melissa Zhang
First Vice Chair	Jordan Oye
Second Vice Chair	William Ying
Members	Danny Chen Theresa Chen Andy Cheung Anna Fei Charan Gill Qin Ji E-Von Lai Niña Pangilinan
Council Liaison	Councillor Andy Hobbs
School Board Liaison	Trustee Alice Wong Trustee Ken Hamaguchi (Alternate)



Visits

Sport Exchange Visit

Steveston Kendo Club Visit to Wakayama City, Japan

From March 21-26, 2025, a delegation of youth from the Steveston Kendo Club visited Wakayama City, Japan to build new friendships and sharpen their kendo skills in the company of fellow kendo enthusiasts in Wakayama City.



Performing Arts Visit

Richmond Youth Honour Choir Visit to Wakayama City, Japan

The Richmond Youth Honour Choir visited Wakayama City, Japan, from August 6-16, 2025. 12 student performers and one instructor participated in the performing arts exchange. The delegation's itinerary included participating in joint camps with both domestic and international choir groups (including the Wakayama Children's Choir), attending instructor-led workshops, and performing alongside other choirs.



Delegation Visit

Dr. Iwahashi, President, Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee, Visit to Richmond

The City hosted Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi during his visit to Richmond to recognize his outstanding contributions to the Richmond—Wakayama Sister City relationship.

In 2025, Dr. Iwahashi also received the “Tim Quigley” Volunteer of the Year Award through Sister Cities International. The award celebrates individuals strengthening international relationships, cultural understanding, and community engagement.



Education

Richmond-Wakayama School Exchange Visit to Richmond

From November 17-24, 2025, the Richmond School Board, City of Richmond, and the Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee were honoured to welcome students from Wakayama City, Japan to Richmond for a week-long school exchange visit. The students were hosted by families from three Richmond high schools: Burnett Secondary, Richmond Secondary, and Palmer Secondary. Some of these activities included attendance at three Richmond high schools and visits to the Richmond Olympic Oval, Steveston, and Richmond City Hall. The week concluded with a Sayonara Open House to celebrate the school exchange and express gratitude to everyone for their contributions and efforts in making this exchange a special and memorable experience for all who participated.





Non-Visits

Education

Pen Pal Exchange

As in previous years, the SCAC continued to work with the Richmond School District to facilitate a Pen Pal Exchange Program between General Currie Elementary School in Richmond and Hengshan Road Primary School in Qingdao, China. Throughout the year, students from both schools sent cards with personalized messages and beautiful artwork to their designated pen pal, fostering intercultural connections and understanding through a fun and meaningful writing activity that is thoroughly enjoyed by students in both cities.



Japan Bowl

High School students from Richmond proudly took part in the 2025 Japan Bowl, an international competition that tests high school students on Japanese language and culture. Competing in teams of two to three, high school students from McMath and Hugh Boyd answered questions presented in both English and Japanese, demonstrating strong teamwork and dedication. Their participation highlighted the community's commitment to intercultural learning and offered a memorable opportunity to engage with students from across Canada and around the world.



Information Exchange

“About Our Cities” Display

This year, the development of an informative display to educate the public about Richmond’s Sister and Friendship Cities around the world was publicly shared. The display featured unique facts about each city accompanied by vibrant landscape photography. The display was installed in the Galleria of Richmond City Hall for over a week in October/November and appeared to be well-visited as the Sister City postcards, which were made available to the public at this display, were very popular!



Cultural Tea Exchange

The SCAC hosted a cultural tea exchange in December with a guest from Xiamen, China, during which the Committee learned about seven different types of tea, traditional preparation methods, and the rich history and customs surrounding Chinese tea culture, including the art of proper tea pouring. Committee members joined virtually and enjoyed tasting a variety of Chinese teas as they explored each tea's background and significance.



Arts and Culture

2025 Chinese New Year Greeting Card

In celebration of Chinese New Year, a digital greeting card for the Year of the Snake was sent on behalf of the SCAC and the City of Richmond to both Qingdao, China and Xiamen, China.



Community Engagement

Annual Photo Exhibition – Gardens

This year, the annual photo exhibition's theme was "Gardens". The photo collection highlights how each place cultivates its own sense of beauty and calm, capturing quiet paths, coastal greenery, and everyday pockets of nature discovered throughout the year in each of our Sister/Friendship Cities. This exhibition was on display in the upper rotunda of the Cultural Centre from March 28 – April 24, 2025.



SCAC Event Selfie Stations

As part of the Committee’s community engagement initiatives, “Selfie Station” signs were developed for two of the City of Richmond’s signature community events – the 2025 Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival and the 2025 Steveston Salmon Festival. The custom signs featured cutouts that allowed for festival-goers to take pictures together to capture memories from the festivals.



Community Postcards

Custom postcards were developed this year that were distributed to the public at various engagement events and information booths, as well as provided to delegations and visitors during exchange visits. These materials supported outreach and awareness efforts by offering information on the City and Richmond Sister/Friendship Cities through a practical souvenir postcard design.



Thank You

Thank you to City Council for their ongoing support of the Sister City Program and for helping foster meaningful connections between Richmond residents and our Sister and Friendship Cities. Your commitment and engagement have been essential to our progress this year.

We also extend our appreciation to our committee members, staff, community partners, and to our Sister and Friendship Cities – Pierrefonds, Quebec (est. 1967); Wakayama, Japan (est. 1973); Xiamen, China (est. 2012); and Qingdao, China (est. 2008) – for their continued collaboration.

We look forward to another productive year together in 2026.



Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee

Four Year Activity Plan Proposal

2023 - 2026

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

GDAs

Polly Tang
Sue Tian
David Yang
Jenny Zhang

School Board

Ken Hamaguchi
Debbie Tablotney

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.

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:

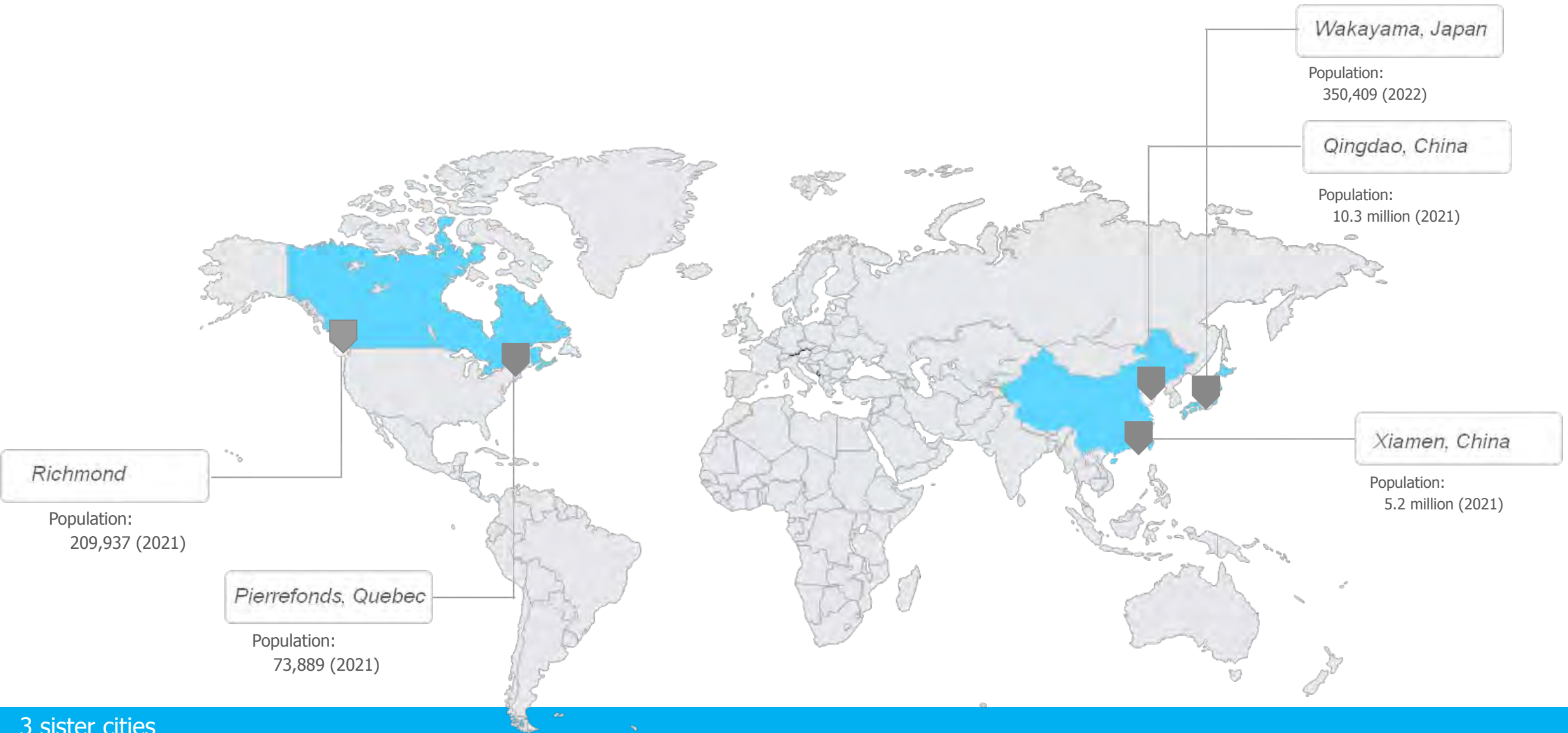
This plan was made in late 2021 / early 2022 when the COVID 19 pandemic continued. Given the uncertainty at what may happen in the time span of this proposal, this plan is subject to change.

Sister City

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

Friendship City

less formal relationship than sister city



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:

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
		Wakayama	Wakayama	Wakayama
Active Living	TBC	TBC	Hockey Jamboree	Xiamen: FIFA Football
	TBC	TBC	Kendo	TBC
Art			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 Twinings				
Explore new Sister City Relationship	x	GP \bar{x} 40	x	x

 Outbound Activity

Budget Summary

	2023	2024	2025	2026
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			
Administration				
Administration Costs	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
SUBTOTAL (year total)	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$71,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$284,000			

*Official celebration plans in separate report to Mayor & Council

Annual Base Program Activities

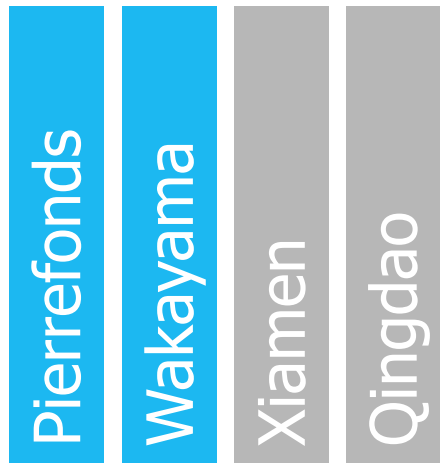
Visits

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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)



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

Pierrefonds
Wakayama
Xiamen
Qingdao

up to
2 activities annually
inbound & outbound

Adult

Youth

- ✓ Sport exchanges open to ALL age groups
- ✓ Competitions or Skills Clinics
- ✓ Schedule of Inbound & Outbound activities to be confirmed
 - Inbound activities
 - 2025: Richmond Hockey Jamboree
 - Outbound activities
 - 2025: Kendo Club
 - July/August 2026: Xiamen Youth FIFA Football

Budget Breakdown:

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

NOTE:

Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)

Active Living

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

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

virtual (2023) &
inbound (2025) activity

Youth

- ✓ Hockey Jamboree to discuss / practice player skills development with sister/friendship cities in virtual format (2023) & in person format (2025)
 - 2023: virtual Zoom workshop to discuss respective minor hockey systems (from Intro Hockey to the NHL)
 - 2025: in-person Hockey Jamboree in Richmond
 - Jamboree to include 1) mixing all the players up and form new teams AND 2) a skills program (hockey school)

Budget Breakdown:

- 2023 (virtual)
 - up to **\$3,000** for video taping
- 2025 (Inbound)
 - up to maximum **\$10,000** for jamboree

NOTE:

Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)

Performing Arts

NEW! Richmond Youth Honour Choir (RYHC)

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

outbound activity

Youth

- ✓ Choir exchanges include opportunities to inbound/outbound to sister cities
 - 2025: Wakayama
- ✓ Choir available for participation in delegate visits

More details about RYHC can be found at
<https://ryhc.org/>

Budget Breakdown:

- Outbound visit
 - **\$500** per participant
 - up to maximum **\$10,000** for each exchange

NOTE:

Additional funding sources list provided to requestors (see appendix)

Annual Base Program Activities

Non-Visits

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Education

Non-visit Activities

Pierrefonds
Wakayama
Xiamen
Qingdao

up to
2 activities annually

Students

- ✓ 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

Education

2023 Japan Bowl®

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

- ✓ 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=g1G-SzFc28E>

Budget Breakdown:

- Giveaways
- In-kind contribution
- Team registration fees

Students

Art & Culture

Richmond Public Library - Book Club

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

1 program annually
inbound & outbound

All

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:

- ✓ One Book, up to Five Cities adult book club
 - 2023: Wakayama Public Library to recommend book
- ✓ StoryWalk® young children
 - Offer sample stories to libraries in our sister/friendship cities
- ✓ Commemorative Milestone Anniversary Bookmarks
 - 2023: share with Wakayama & Qingdao Public Library

Budget Breakdown:

- Sister Cities to participate in Richmond Public Library book club program
- Bookmarks: printing & distribution

GP – 50

Art & Culture

NEW! Take & Make It!

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

GP – 51

Annual Base Program Activities

Information Exchange

GP – 52

Information Exchange

About Richmond

Pierrefonds
Wakayama
Xiamen
Qingdao

as requested
Updated annually

✓ 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

Information Exchange

Speaker Series

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

1+ sessions
annually

Adult

Youth

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:

- ✓ Let's Go! virtual tours of sister/friendship cities
 - Live or prerecorded sessions via Zoom of local attractions, parks, cultural events, museums and libraries
- ✓ Speakers Series
 - Presentations on cultural customs, cuisine & crafts
- ✓ Virtual Sister/Friendship City Youth Session
 - Students chat with youth in French, Japanese & Chinese to learn about each other and each other's culture

Budget Breakdown:

- Speakers Fee: estimate between \$500 - \$4,000

Information Exchange

Community Groups / Advisory Committees

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

as requested

Virtually

All

✓ Knowledge sharing between like groups

- Initial thoughts
 - Advisory Committees
 - City Staff
 - Community Groups
 - Community Partners

Budget Breakdown:

- no cost

Annual Base Program Activities

Community Engagement

GP – 56

Community Engagement

Participation in City Events / Activities

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

Annual
up to
2 City Events

Sister City Advisory Committee members participate in activities to increase Community Engagement and sharing of experiences with our sister/friendship cities

- ✓ Steveston Salmon Festival Activation
- ✓ City Events - exhibitor booth
- ✓ Wakayama Sister City Garden
- ✓ Sister City Program theme Geocaching (2024)

Budget Breakdown:

- Event booth decorations
- T-shirts for participants
- Handouts for attendees

Community Engagement

Walk Richmond - community walks

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

All

Partner with Walk Richmond to coordinate sister city community walks

- ✓ Pierrefonds walk
 - Starting at Pierrefonds Sister City Garden at City Hall
 - Ending at Pierrefonds Garden by Minoru Chapel
- ✓ Wakayama walk
 - Similar to Pierrefonds walk
 - Garry Point Park to Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site
- ✓ Xiamen & Qingdao walk
 - Aberdeen Neighbourhood Park (TBC)

Budget Breakdown:

- Giveaways

Community Engagement

Photo Exhibition

- ✓ Photo shows at Cultural Centre to showcase sister/friendship cities
 - Upper Rotunda - 15 photos highlighting city
 - Atrium - 8 photos highlighting theme
 - 2023: Public Art
 - 2024: Fire Halls (to be confirmed)
 - 2025: to be confirmed
 - 2026: to be confirmed

Budget Breakdown:

- **\$1,000** annually for photo development

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

up to
2 activities annually
inbound

Community Engagement

Richmond Museum



Pierrefonds
Wakayama
Xiamen
Qingdao

2023 & 2024

- ✓ Share artefacts collected from Sister City Program at Richmond Museum
 - July 2023 - Wakayama
 - February 2024 - Sister City Program

Budget Breakdown:

- No cost

Annual Base Program Activities

Milestone Anniversaries

GP – 61

Milestone Celebrations

Occurring in 2023

- ✓ Two major milestones will be celebrated in 2023
 - Wakayama: 50 year anniversary (July)
 - Official celebration plans in separate report to Mayor & Council
 - Qingdao: 15 year anniversary (April)

Budget Breakdown:

- TBA

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

2 milestone celebrations

Milestone Celebrations

Street Banner Contest

Pierrefonds

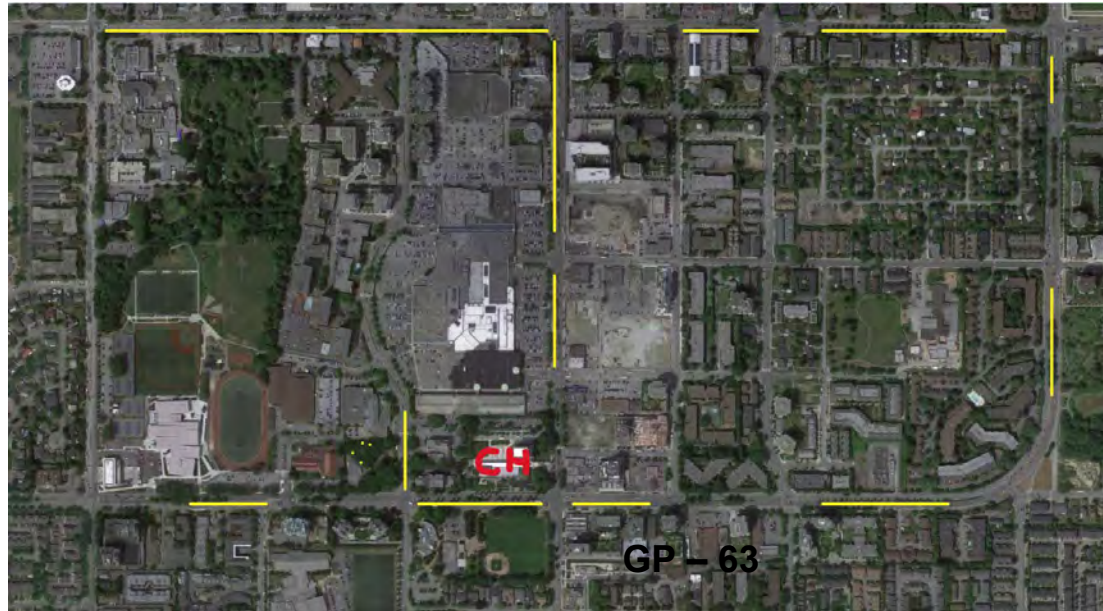
Wakayama

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

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

GP – 66

Administration

Operational & Relationship Activities

Pierrefonds

Wakayama

Xiamen

Qingdao

- ✓ Annual administrative costs
- ✓ Letters between Mayors - annual "state of the city" letter
- ✓ Exchanges of City Annual Reports

Budget Breakdown:

- **\$11,000** annual administrative costs

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,
Municipal Hall,
RICHMOND, B.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen:


As Council are aware, Richmond has twinned with Pierrefonds, Quebec and Wakayama, Japan, the latter being formalized during 1973. The twinning with these Cities, but particularly with Wakayama, has engendered 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 organized exchange of our students, young people in general, and to a certain extent the visitation by various members of each community.

Wakayama 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 non-political citizens, such as members of the Board of Trade, Medical Associations, Religious Institutions, businessmen and ordinary citizens. The Wakayama Committee functions under the chairmanship of a Dr. Benz, and he is very active in promoting sister city relationships.

It is therefore the recommendation to this Council that a similar-type Committee, to be called "The Sister City Twinning Committee", be organized and it is suggested that Mr. Jim Murray be named as Chairman. It is further suggested that Mr. Murray and our Chief Administrative Officer be empowered to solicit 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 progress of formulating the Committee and 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.


G. J. Blair
MAYOR

OBJECTIVES OF THE SISTER CITY TWINNING COMMITTEE

1. To coordinate and organize exchanges between our Sister Cities, Pierrefonds, Quebec, and Wakayama, Japan.
2. To carry out a continuing programme 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.

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.

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=tcom_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
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