



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: May 1, 2015

From: Amarjeet S. Rattan
Director, Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol
Unit

File: 01-0100-30-SCIT1-
01/2015-Vol 01

Re: **Sister City Advisory Committee 2014 Year In Review**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Sister City Advisory Committee 2014 Year in Review" dated May 1, 2015, 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

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) 2014 Year in Review Report.

This report supports Council's Term Goal #6 Intergovernmental Relations:

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 a 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, 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 2014 are outlined in Attachment 1.

Some of the highlights for 2014 include:

- *Newly appointed committee members were introduced at the first meeting in January:* With the implementation of the new Sister City Program policies and procedures in 2013, the SCAC welcomed six new members for the 2014 term.
- *SCAC receives Council approval to partner with Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee on production of book to commemorate 40th Anniversary:* A working group consisting of current and previous SCAC members was formed to research and develop material to celebrate the long standing relationship between Wakayama and Richmond. The book is expected to be printed in early 2014.
- *SCAC Vice-Chair for Pierrefonds, Francis Turmeau, met with new Mayor Beis of Pierrefonds to discuss the Sister City relationship and future opportunities:* Pierrefonds elected a new Mayor and Councillors in August. Mayor Brodie and SCAC members sent congratulatory and thank you letters to the incoming and outgoing Mayors of Pierrefonds.

- *Annual Richmond – Wakayama Student Exchange Visit:* A group of 37 Wakayama student and four teachers visited Richmond as part of the annual student exchange program organized by the Richmond School Board and supported by the Sister City Program.
- *Steveston Salmon Festival Parade:* SCAC members and supporters participated in the annual Steveston Salmon Festival Parade.
- *Xiamen CFIT Delegation visit:* SCAC members and Richmond Chamber of Commerce representatives attended a breakfast meeting at the Westin Wall Centre with the Xiamen CFIT delegation.
- *A Tourism and Business Development Seminar was hosted by the Vice Mayor of Qingdao:* The seminar was organized by the Ministry of International Trade and held at the Richmond Olympic Oval. Members of Richmond Council attended to welcome the Qingdao Vice Mayor and Minister Teresa Wat.

Financial Impact

No financial impact.

Conclusion

The 2014 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)

AR:zf

Att. 1: SCAC 2014 Activities



City of Richmond

Sister City Advisory Committee 2014 Year in Review

2014 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). 2014 was another busy year for the SCAC. Information from various SCAC activities and events is outlined in the following pages.

2014 Committee Members:

Chair
Vice-Chair, Wakayama
Vice-Chair, Xiamen
Vice-Chair, Qingdao
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds
Members

Hans Havas
 Jim Kojima
 Weiping Liu
 Cindy Wang
 Francis Turmeau
 Corinna Chan
 Boo Jock Chong
 Andrea Dulay
 Kevin Lainchbury
 Gayle Morris
 Richard Qiu
 Helen Quan
 Howard Smythe

Council Liaison

Councillor Ken Johnston
 Councillor Linda Barnes (Alternate)

School Board Liaison

Eric Yung
 Debbie Tablotney (Alternate)



January

- Newly appointed committee members were introduced at the first meeting in January.
- Sister City Advisory Committee elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Wakayama, Pierrefonds, Xiamen and Qingdao; and the selected members to the subcommittee for the Pierrefonds Relationship Review, subcommittee for Community Engagement in SCAC activities, and subcommittee for the Website Updates and Interactive Display.
-

February

- The Chair and Vice-Chairs of Xiamen and Qingdao attended the 15th Annual Richmond Chinese Community Society (RCCS) dinner to celebrate the “Year of the Horse” at the Continental Seafood Restaurant.
- Council approved that the Sister City Advisory Committee work with the Wakayama Sister City Affiliation Committee to produce a joint 40th Anniversary commemorative book.
- Vice-Chair Francis Turmeau met with new Mayor Beis of Pierrefonds to discuss the Sister City relationship and future opportunities.

May

- Wakayama Student and Teachers delegation consisting of 37 students and 4 teachers visited Richmond;



- Members of the Wakayama delegation with Richmond School Representatives, Trustees and SCAC members in Steveston.





Sayonara Party for the Wakayama Student Delegation – Saturday, May 17, 2014



July

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



- July 25 - Wakayama Mayor Ohashi's wife was in Vancouver attending a conference in an official capacity, representing a delegation from Wakayama. SCAC Chair, Vice-Chair Wakayama and Councillor's Ken Johnston and Linda Barnes attended a dinner with Mrs. Ohashi on July 25, at the Blue Canoe.
- July 7 - SCAC members and Richmond Chamber of Commerce representative attended a breakfast meeting at the Westin Wall Centre with the Xiamen CFIT delegation.



Xiamen CFIT Delegation



September

- SCAC members attended a dinner hosted by the Steveston Judo Club held on Thursday September 25th with the Judo group from Qingdao.

December

- Councillors Bill McNulty and Alexa Loo attended a Tourism and Business Development Seminar hosted by the Vice Mayor of Qingdao. The seminar was organized by the Ministry of International Trade and held at the Richmond Olympic Oval on December 19.



Councillor Alexa Loo, Qingdao Vice-Mayor, Mr. Liu and Minister Teresa Wat