

RE: LETTER FROM MR. JAMES W. KNIGHT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE FEDERATION
OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES
URBAN MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENT
CHINESE OPEN CITIES PROJECT

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT sufficient leave with pay be authorized for the Municipal Manager to accept the invitation to participate in the Chinese Open Cities Project.

REPORT

Appearing on the agenda is a letter from Mr. James W. Knight, Executive Director for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). As noted in that letter, the Municipal Manager has been requested to participate in the Chinese Open Cities Project which is comprised of a variety of training activities directed to officials in the coastal cities and open areas of China. Subject to the approval of Council, the Manager's participation in this project would be as follows:

1. Delivery of a series of lectures to senior municipal officials at Nankai University in Tianjin, China from 1988 June 18 to July 10.

The purpose of the lectures would be to explain how the following matters are administered in Canadian local government: urban land use, housing, urban transportation, urban environment and urban finance. The intent is to give Chinese municipal officials a basic general knowledge of Canadian practice and for them to gain an understanding of why Canadian municipal government functions the way it does. The officials would then be able to consider and compare the Canadian practice to the Chinese setting to determine what changes they may want to make in their government.

While in China, the Manager would also be required to meet with faculty, administrators and students at Nankai University, and government officials in Beijing, to develop an understanding of the subjects and the range of subjects to be covered in the development of a module (as explained in the letter from Mr. Knight and in Item 2 below).

2. Upon his return from China, the Manager and a professor at the University of Toronto would prepare a modern urban management module for Nankai University based on the Canadian practice. The module will be added to the existing modules which comprise the 4 1/2 month university course.

The project is completely funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for whom the FCM is the executing agency. All of the Manager's expenses associated with the trip would therefore be fully covered. The only cost to the Municipality would be the time that the Manager would be away.

It is deemed an honor for our Municipality to be requested to participate in the Chinese Open Cities Project. This endeavour will be a precedent in that it will bring together, for the first time, representatives from China and Canada who will work in cooperation with each other on the development of an educational module designed to help Chinese officials to access if they wish to make changes in their form of government based on the Canadian practice. This unique project is expected to also enhance goodwill between the respective countries. Furthermore, the Manager believes that this would be a valuable learning opportunity for him, and that the knowledge and experience that he would acquire from his involvement with the project would more than justify the time that he would devote to it. Council's approval for his participation in the project is requested accordingly.

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