

DATE: 1998 MAY 27
TO: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
FROM: HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR DRUMMOND
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY LEADERS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the City of Burnaby become a formal participant in the Community Leaders Partnership Program and partner with the City of Gatineau, Quebec.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forward to the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce to the attention of Ms. Abby Anderson, General Manager.

BACKGROUND

Around the time when the Community Leaders Partnership Program was announced Councillor Young initiated a meeting with Ms. Abby Anderson the General Manager of the Burnaby Chamber of Commerce which was also attended by myself and City Staff. Direction was given to staff to investigate the role that the City and the Chamber could play in the program and report back. This report is a result of this investigation and further discussions that were held with the F.C.M.

THE PROGRAM

The Community Leaders Partnership Program (CLPP) is a cost-shared initiative, financially supported by a partnership which includes the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Government of Canada (Canada Information Office) and the Royal Bank of Canada. The goal of CLPP is to promote cooperation and understanding in the areas of economic, social and cultural, and linguistic development among Canadians from communities across the country. Municipal, business and community leaders will link with their counterparts in other provinces to share knowledge and expertise about common problems and shared challenges.

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In the process of reaching out to each other, municipal and business leaders will position their communities to take advantage of new opportunities for growth and expansion. As Canada has increasingly geared itself to respond to global markets, its communities have expanded and developed as well. The Community Leaders Partnership Program will create working partnerships between municipalities and local chambers of commerce, to advance opportunities for all involved. By meeting face-to-face, developing contacts and fostering a sense of cooperation, participants will help each other solve problems and generate economic opportunities. The exchanges will also create fresh insights and a greater awareness of Canada's regional, linguistic diversity.

THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

During a period of rapid economic transformation and social change and with an increased emphasis on local responsibility and citizen participation, the Community Leaders Partnership Program is designed to promote and foster cooperation and increased understanding in the areas of economic and cultural development among Canadians and Canadian municipalities.

The program provides opportunities for municipal political leaders, the business community, administrators and community leaders, youth, seniors, service clubs, women's associations, cultural or artistic groups, sports organizations, etc. to share ideas, and benefit from each others knowledge and expertise on matters of mutual support among Canadians, increase their knowledge, appreciation for the diversity of Canadian society and its institutions and encourage active citizen participation in addressing common issues and meeting common challenges.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- ☼ To provide a mechanism by which participants can share knowledge and expertise, identify and address common issues and meet common challenges in Canada.
- ☼ To establish sustainable, cooperative relationships, lasting networks of communications and mutual support among Canadian municipalities, business and community leaders across the country.
- ☼ To select and disseminate municipal best practices in Canadian municipalities.

- ☼ To provide civic leaders with a leadership role and demonstrate concretely the advantages of Canada.
- ☼ To provide opportunities to acknowledge and benefit from Canada's linguistic, cultural and regional diversity.
- ☼ To encourage entrepreneurs to share information and expertise, thereby fostering increased trade, investment and job creation in Canada.

THE PROPOSED PARTNER - THE CITY OF GATINEAU, QUEBEC

Gatineau is the fifth (5th) largest City in Quebec, with a population of 105,000 people and is located in the Outaouais region of this Province only a few minutes from Ottawa.

The Gatineau area was first settled around 1800. Its history is made up of lumber camps, floating, log jams and raftsmen. To this day, the forest industry remains a significant force. Newsprint is still produced every day in the City and shipped to important newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the Montreal Gazette and The Ottawa Citizen. Avenor, a pulp and paper company located in the heart of the city, is the prime supplier of recycled newsprint in North America. Other wood by-products and assembly plants are also established in Gatineau.

Born in 1975 through the amalgamation of seven cities and towns, Greater Gatineau started to develop almost immediately. Today, a new city center is taking shape for future generations. From it will emerge the city's new heart and soul. The City Hall, a community college (cegep), a municipal arts center, several office buildings, condominiums, cinemas and the National Archives of Canada complex have already changed the skyline. A recreational center, a variety of businesses and stores, a hotel and other offices and residential buildings will turn the "downtown area" into a hub of continuous activity.

As the largest French-speaking community of the National Capital Region, Gatineau is characterized by its youth, its economic power base, its deeply-rooted institutions, an emerging community spirit and year-round activities.

CONCLUSION

It is being recommended that the City and the Chamber enter into a formal agreement which

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would see the City partner with the City of Gatineau, Quebec to the benefit of all parties. The City of Gatineau is concurrently proceeding through a similar process to formalize a partnership with the City of Burnaby.

Douglas P. Drummond
MAYOR

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