

CITY OF BURNABY

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BURNABY CITY COUNCILLORS

**SUBJECT: 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BURNABY-KUSHIRO
SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the City of Burnaby extend an invitation to Mayor Yoskitaka Ito and representatives of the City of Kushiro to visit the City of Burnaby from June 29 - July 03, 2005 to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship.
2. THAT related expenses be paid by the City of Burnaby

REPORT

On September 09, 1965 the City of Burnaby entered into a Sister City relationship with the City of Kushiro, Japan. Since that time the two cities have participated in various events and exchanges involving Councils, citizens and students as we learn about our different cultures and city governance. In addition, relationships have been established between Simon Fraser University and its counterpart, Kushiro City University.

Traditionally the two cities have commemorated significant anniversaries with reciprocal visits between Councils, staff and citizens. As 2005 is the 40th anniversary of our sister city relationship it would be appropriate to extend an invitation to Mayor Yoshitaka Ito and representatives of the City of Kushiro to visit Burnaby to commemorate this event.

The period between June 29th and July 03rd is a significant one for Burnaby as it is a time of celebration and community events as we celebrate our 138th Canada Day. This would be an excellent opportunity to share Canadian cultural events with our Sister City delegates in addition to the time spent exchanging information and ideas about the manner in which both cities are addressing the challenges of growth, the need for economic diversity, transportation, affordable housing and meeting the day to day needs of our respective citizens.

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The City of Kushiro has suggested our two cities undertake a joint project to commemorate the anniversary and strengthen the linkages between us.

Given Burnaby's growing expertise in the area of eco-sculpture it is suggested we create a sculpture representative of our communities' commitment to the preservation of wildlife and their habitat. Funds could be reallocated within the current budget to allow staff to begin construction of the project so that it would be completed and blooming by the June visit.

Therefore I would respectfully request Council's approval to invite Mayor Yoshitaka Ito and representatives of the City of Kushiro to visit Burnaby in 2005 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship.

Respectfully submitted,


Derek R. Corrigan
MAYOR