

REPORT
Open Council Meeting
November 19, 2007

TO: BURNABY CITY COUNCIL DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2007
FROM: MAYOR DEREK R. CORRIGAN
SUBJECT: FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT – CITY OF BURNABY AND CITY OF
CHANGSHU, CHINA

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, be authorized to send a letter to the Mayor and Council of Changshu City extending an invitation to enter into a Friendship Agreement.

REPORT

Background

Earlier this year, at the invitation of the Burnaby Board of Trade, I joined a 10-member delegation to visit various cities in China. The purpose of this mission was to facilitate exchange and establish relations with China.

During the visit to China, I spent some time in the City of Changshu. I had the pleasure of meeting Mayor Wang Jiankang and officials of the city's foreign trade and economic cooperation, economic development zone, cultural bureau and the President of the Changshu Institute of Technology. A Letter of Intention to explore a relationship between the two cities was signed by the two Mayors (*attached*). The City of Burnaby was also fortunate to host Mayor Jiankang, accompanied by a small delegation from Changshu, in September this year.

City of Changshu

Changshu is a city located in southeast Jiangsu Province and surrounded by Shanghai, Suzhou, Wuxi and Nantong. It has a population of one million and an area of 1,264 sq. km. Changshu is an ancient city with over 3,000 years of history and culture. It has a diverse economy, rich in agriculture and at the same time a manufacturing base in the Yangtze Delta economic area.

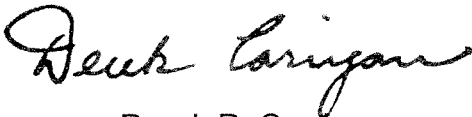
Friendship Agreement

The desire to establish a Friendship Agreement with Changshu is based on recognition of the longer-term economic benefits and opportunities in Burnaby. This proposed partnership with Changshu would offer potential for a strong and expanding market for Burnaby exporters and could also be used as a tool to promote educational exchanges between BCIT and Changshu's Institute of Technology. Burnaby could also benefit from the fact Changshu is an older city, rich in history and culture.

Conclusion

A Friendship Agreement between the City of Burnaby and the City of Changshu presents a multitude of opportunities on many different levels and on many topics of mutual interest. It is therefore recommended that the City of Burnaby send an official letter to the City of Changshu inviting them to enter into this partnership.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek R. Corrigan
MAYOR

- Copy:
- City Manager
 - Director Planning and Building
 - Director Engineering
 - Director Finance
 - Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Letter of Intent of Friendship City

Burnaby, Canada/Changshu, People's Republic of China

Since May 2005, there have been many friendly exchanges between Burnaby City of Canada and Changshu City of the People's Republic of China. The representative of Burnaby has already visited Changshu a couple of times. In July, 2006, Changshu delegation visited Burnaby. With frequent exchanges and further understanding between the two cities, the two cities have held several talks concerning the subject of future exchanges and cooperation. After friendly negotiations, the two cities intend to establish Friendship City Relationships.

Both communities are interested in pursuing exchanges and cooperation in economic development, science, technology, culture, sports, public health and education on the basis of mutual benefits.

Signed at Changshu in two original copies on June 1, 2007, in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

Mayor of Burnaby

Canada


Derek R. Corrigan

Mayor of Changshu

The People's Republic of China

Wang Jiankang

