



Corporate Report

2004

NO: R232

COUNCIL DATE: September 7,

REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: September 7,
2004

FROM: City Manager FILE: 2720-01

SUBJECT: Participation in the Sustainable Cities Mission to
Bucharest, Romania

RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the participation of the City Manager in Industry Canada's Sustainable Cities Mission to Bucharest during September 28th – 30th, 2004.

DISCUSSION

Industry Canada's Sustainable Cities Initiative has invited the City Manager to participate in their mission to Bucharest during September 28 – 30, 2004. The Sustainable Cities Initiative is a federally funded program to provide a framework for the identification of partnership projects between Canadian organizations and participating municipalities abroad. The SCI addresses needs as diverse as governance, clean water, waste management, clean energy, transportation, housing, capacity building, urban planning, telecommunications, urban infrastructure projects, economic development, tourism and port development.

The SCI is focussed on solutions through:

- Analysis – by defining problems generated by rapid urbanization and identifying integrated solutions through cooperation and partnerships.
- Support – through capacity-building, training, cooperation, technology transfers and people-to-people contacts
- Action – by deployment of Canadian solutions/approaches through partnerships among private sector, NGOs, government partners and SCI cities.

The SCI currently has 16 partner cities – Salvador (Brazil), Porto Alegre (Brazil), Qingdao (China), Katowice (Poland), San Jose (Costa Rica), Cordoba (Argentina), Durban (South Africa), Valparaiso/Vina del Mar (Chile), Algiers (Algeria), Dakar (Senegal), Matamoros & Reynosa (Mexico), Dares Salaam (Tanzania), Sula Valley (Honduras), Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), and Bucharest (Romania).

The purpose of this Bucharest Mission is to conduct a series of workshops to define scope and priorities for the Bucharest local government in areas such as local Economic Development, Solid Waste Management, Environmental Protection and Tourism.

Sustainable Cities Initiative has requested the City Manager's participation to represent Canadian local government expertise and perspectives, as well as to co-chair various workshop sessions. This also offers a unique opportunity for the City of Surrey to both share and acquire knowledge in discussions with members of the Bucharest Municipality.

Industry Canada will cover costs of airfare and most meals and accommodation. Council's approval is requested to enable the participation of the City Manager.

Umendra Mital, P. Eng.

City Manager