

In all, there have been ten delegations from Surrey to Zhuhai, the last one being in 2004. Delegations from Zhuhai to Surrey number fifteen, with the last one being in May, 2005. Since this time, contact between Surrey and Zhuhai has been limited to the occasional email exchange between staff.

Koto-ku, Japan

Surrey and Koto-ku signed a Sister City Agreement on April 20, 1989 at a ceremony held at Surrey City Hall. This agreement is attached as Appendix B.

The intent of the agreement was to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two cities in the areas of culture, science, education, commerce and government, as well as to promote the welfare of the citizens of each city.

In all, there have been four delegations from Surrey to Koto-ku, the last one being in 1996. There have been fifteen official delegations from Koto-ku to Surrey, with the last one taking place in October, 1993. For the past several years, the only contact the City of Surrey has had with Koto-ku has been the occasional e-mail exchange between staff.

A positive outcome of Surrey's Agreement with Koto-ku is the 'Sister School' relationship that was established between Sullivan Elementary School and Koto-ku's Sandai Elementary School in 1999. Several school-based exchanges have taken place since that time. In addition, each year since 1996, students from Koto Middle School participate in an English language program in Squamish and make it a practice to stop in for a brief, informal visit to Surrey City Hall.

DISCUSSION

From a cultural and educational perspective, both of Surrey's Sister City relationships have yielded benefits, particularly in the early years. Unfortunately, the economic benefits originally hoped for, have not yet materialized.

In the mid to late 1980's, it was common practice for Canadian cities to establish Sister City relationships in Asia and other parts of the world. Twenty years later, it appears that the majority of these relationships have become somewhat dormant. It also appears that the relationships with longevity share the common thread of community involvement and stewardship.

A number of Canadian cities, including Mississauga, Richmond and Mission, have either transferred responsibility for their Sister City relationships to local Friendship Associations or established Sister City Advisory Committees which typically include a number of citizens and business people appointed by Council, a School District representative, a City staff member and a member of Council.

CONCLUSION

For the last ten years, there have been no official delegations between the City of Surrey and Koto-ku, Japan. Since May, 2005, there have been no official delegations between the City of Surrey and Zhuhai. Recent interaction with our Sister Cities has been limited to infrequent e-mails between staff.

Staff could contact representatives of our Sister Cities to explore options for re-energizing and advancing our Sister City relationships. However, in advance of such action it would be prudent for the matter to be considered by the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee in relation to the merits of the relationships.

Donna Jones
Manager, Economic

Development Office

Attachments (2)

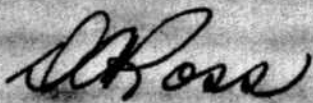
AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN
THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SURREY OF CANADA
AND
THE CITY OF ZHUHAI OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Corporation of the District of Surrey of Canada and the City of Zhuhai of the People's Republic of China, proceeding from the common aspirations for further promoting the mutual understanding and traditional friendship between the peoples of Canada and China and under the guidance of the principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and China, have decided to establish a friendship city relationship.

The two sides agreed, for widely and deeply developing the friendly cooperative relations between the two cities, in accordance with the principle of equality and mutual benefits and adopting various forms, to develop wide exchanges and cooperation in economy, trade, science and technology, culture and arts, education and sports, public health, and urban construction and management, so as to promote the prosperity of economy and various undertakings of the two cities of Surrey and Zhuhai and make concerted efforts to the cause of peace and friendship of the peoples of Canada and China.

The agreement will come into effect on the date of signature by the leaders of the two cities.

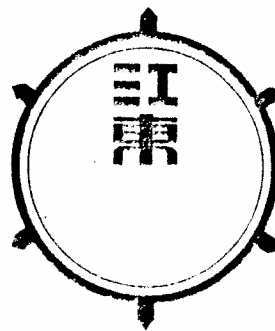
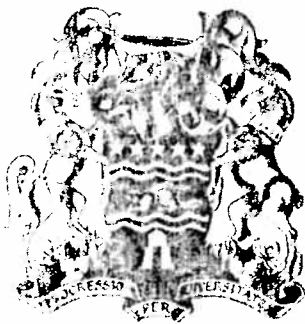
The agreement was signed in Surrey of Canada on the 8th day of July, 1987, in duplicate in English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.



Mayor of Surrey
Mr. Don Ross
Surrey
Canada



Mayor of Zhuhai
Mr. Liang Guang Da
Zhuhai
The People's Republic of China



COVENANT

The Corporation of the District of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada and the Ward of Koto, Metropolis of Tokyo, Japan, shall endeavor to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between their communities.

Each will support exchange visits of their citizens in such fields as culture, science, education, commerce and government administration, as well as to promote the welfare of the citizens of each city. We hold the firm belief that such exchanges will strengthen the ties of friendship between Canada and Japan, and will contribute toward the peace and prosperity of the world.

Surrey and Koto Ward, with the approval of the municipal assembly of each party, do hereby pledge to co-operate with each other as Sister Cities.

Dated this 20th day of April, in the year 1989.

Robert J. Bose
Robert J. Bose

Mayor
District of Surrey
British Columbia, Canada

小松崎 軍次
Gunji Komatsuzaki

Mayor
Koto Ward
Tokyo, Japan