



# **REGULAR COUNCIL**

TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	July 29, 2009
FROM:	General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture	FILE:	1850-01
	Deputy City Manager		
SUBJECT:	Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Hosting a Bolivian Delegation		

# RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the City Manager's Department recommend that Council approve the use of \$3,500 from the Council Initiatives Fund to host a dinner at the Surrey Arts Centre on Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for a delegation from the Municipal Association of Bolivia (FAM – Bolivia).

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council about an opportunity to host an international delegation from FAM - Bolivia and to seek approval from Council to use \$3,500 from the Council Initiative Fund to host a dinner for the delegation.

## BACKGROUND

From August 17<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup> the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) will be hosting a delegation from FAM – Bolivia. The objective of the tour is to introduce FAM Bolivia to Canadian examples of decentralization, inter-governmental relations and aboriginal governance.

The delegation will spend the first week of their mission, August 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in Quebec visiting with local governments and their provincial association and then will spend Monday in Ottawa with FCM and CIDA and meeting the Bolivian Ambassador.

From late Monday night August 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday morning August 29<sup>th</sup>they will be in Vancouver to meet with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), Fraser Valley Regional District, representatives from the Local Government Department of the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and visit a band office or a First Nations autonomous government.

The FCM has requested, through Councillor Hunt, that the City of Surrey consider hosting a dinner for the delegation. All but one of the Bolivian delegates will be visiting Canada for the first time. The Bolivian delegation will include four mayors who are on the board of FAM-Bolivia as well as the Executive Director. One or two FCM staff will be accompanying the delegation.

The City could host a dinner for the delegation and members of City Council at the Arts Centre on Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup>, with a west coast and aboriginal theme. The dinner would be catered by the Kla-how-eya Aboriginal Society Culinary Program and potentially feature entertainment such as the Children of the Rainbow. Local First Nations representatives would be invited to welcome our guests.

The City of Surrey is an active member of FCM and supports FCM's efforts to build relationships with international municipal level governments and participate in learning opportunities through international delegations. Hosting this dinner will demonstrate Surrey's continued support of FCM International efforts and provide an opportunity to assist the delegation in their efforts to learn about local government operations in Canada.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the use of \$3,500 from the Council Initiatives Fund to host a dinner at the Surrey Arts Centre on Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for a delegation from the Municipal Association of Bolivia (FAM – Bolivia).

Dan Bottrill Deputy City Manager City Manager's Department Laurie Cavan, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

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