

NO: R042

COUNCIL DATE: March 14, 2011

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: March 9, 2011**

FROM: Deputy City Manager **FILE: 0250-01**

SUBJECT: FCM Call for Expressions of Interest - Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Office recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve the participation of one City employee in the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (the "MCP") being coordinated by the FCM to assist with the rebuilding effort in Haiti; and
3. Approve the submission by the City of an application to the FCM under the MCP project to host a delegation of Haitian municipal officials in Surrey.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval in relation to supporting the MCP project being coordinated by the FCM that will assist in the post-earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

BACKGROUND

In January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti resulting in extensive infrastructure damage and affecting more than three million people. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Union des municipalites of Quebec (UMQ) and City of Montreal have recently launched the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (the "MCP") in Haiti. The MCP project is being funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

DISCUSSION

Employee Participation

In support of the MCP, FCM has issued a call for Expressions of Interest (Appendix 1) for the purpose of building a pool of individuals with expertise in various aspects of municipal operations to provide advice and training in best practices to Haitian partner municipalities relative to the rebuilding of infrastructure in Haiti. The FCM has advised that the City may submit an

application to the MCP project up until the end of March. As the twelfth largest city in Canada, the City of Surrey has employees with expertise in areas that would support the MCP. FCM staff advises that the MCP project selection process will have a strong preference for those applicants that are able to speak French or Creole.

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report staff will select a City of Surrey employee for whom an application will be made to the FCM to become part of the MCP. If the employee is selected by the MCP Selection Process to participate in the MCP, CIDA will cover the costs of transportation, accommodation, and meals while the employee is away from Surrey while the City of Surrey would be expected to continue to cover salary and benefits of the employee. The participating employee would attend Haiti in 2 week periods of time up to 3 times per year over the next two years (i.e., a maximum of 12 weeks).

Hosting a Haitian Delegation

Under the MCP project, the FCM is also seeking out municipalities that are willing to host a delegation of Haitian municipal officials for potentially a one-week period. FCM would be responsible for arranging and designing a program for such a visit. CIDA would cover the costs of transportation, accommodation and meals for the delegation. It is recommended that Surrey make application to host such a delegation in support of the rebuilding effort in Haiti.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Approve the participation of one City employee in the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (the “MCP”) being coordinated by the FCM to assist with the rebuilding effort in Haiti; and
- Approve the submission by the City of an application to the FCM under the MCP project to host a delegation of Haitian municipal officials in Surrey.

Dan Bottrill
Deputy City Manager

DB/mc

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Appendix 1 – The Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (MCP)

Appendix 1

The Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (MCP)

Program:	The Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (MCP)
Mandate:	People interested in sharing their technical expertise in a municipal capacity-building project in Haiti
Location:	The Gressier, Léogâne, Petit-Goâve and Grand-Goâve communes in Haiti
Project duration:	March 2011 to February 2013
Application deadline:	March 1, 2011

Overview

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) and City of Montréal, have recently launched the Haiti-Canada Municipal Cooperation Project (MCP) in Haiti, thanks to funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The goal of the MCP is to provide strategic assistance for the reconstruction of Haiti, by strengthening the institutional capacity of several Haitian municipalities hit by the January 2010 earthquake. A key objective of the MCP is to re-establish the basic administrative capacity of the Gressier, Léogâne, Petit-Goâve and Grand-Goâve communes (forming the des Palmes region), so that they are better able to plan and coordinate the rebuilding of their communities, resume provision of certain services to their populations and carry out small reconstruction or rehabilitation projects of public facilities.

The MCP will use a peer-to-peer approach to build capacity. Practitioners from Canadian partner municipalities will provide advice and training best practices to Haitian partner municipalities.

We are seeking to build a resource pool of individuals interested in contributing to the MCP over the next 25 months. The role of municipal experts could include:

taking part in technical missions in Haiti (up to three two-week missions per year); and
hosting delegations from Haiti for visits of several days in their municipality.

The MCP program will pay for all participants' travel, lodging and meal expenses with funds provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and ensure experts are provided with a safe working environment. However, before applying, candidates must be aware that working conditions in Haiti are difficult.

After conducting an initial planning exercise, we believe the following experts will be needed for phase one of the project:

one expert in municipal administration;
one expert in governance and legal affairs;
one expert in communications and citizen relations;
one expert in taxation and accounting;
one expert in licence management;
four experts in urban planning, geomatics and engineering;
one expert in project and contract management;
one expert in economic development; and
one expert in waste management.

How to apply

If you wish to be part of the resource pool for the MCP, please apply **by March 1, 2011, by completing the online application form**. UMQ members interested in the MCP should contact Louise Duquet at lduquet@umq.qc.ca.

For further information on FCM programs, or to sign up for our mailing list and receive the latest job offers, please e-mail Jennifer Donnelly at jdonnelly@fcm.ca