

CITY OF WHITEHORSE

COUNCIL POLICY

POLICY: SELECTION & MAINTENANCE OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the Sister City Board to consider when recommending to Mayor and Council that the City of Whitehorse enter into and/or delete a Sister City relationship with another City.

AUTHORITY: Council Resolution # 95-05-32 dated March 13, 1995

SELECTION & MAINTENANCE OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

General

The City of Whitehorse enters into Sister City relationships to promote economic development, educational, cultural and friendship exchanges between cities. This enables the citizens of Whitehorse to participate and benefit from such exchanges. It provides them with a better understanding of their own community by interpreting their way of life to people of a different city, culture and/or country. It can also lead to economic growth within the City.

It is understood that it takes time and effort to establish and maintain friendships, business contacts, to promote economic development and learn various cultures.

In order to build and maintain such relationships, it requires the support and participation of Mayor/Council, Administration and the citizens of Whitehorse.

Procedures/Responsibilities of the Sister Cities Board

1. The Sister City Board is responsible for making recommendations to Mayor, Council and City Administration. The Committee does not have authority to commit City funds, set policies and procedures, or enter into Sister City relationships on behalf of the City of Whitehorse.
2. The Sister City Board should ensure/consider that the number of Sister City relationships the City of Whitehorse enters into should not exceed the required resources (e.g. Administrative support).
3. That goals & objectives be established for each Sister City in order to evaluate whether the relationship is meeting the needs of the City of Whitehorse and within the resources available.

4. That each Sister City relationship be reviewed at a minimum of every five (5) years to determine whether the City's goals & objectives are being met.
5. Should it be determined that a Sister City relationship is not meeting the City's needs, the Sister City Board will re-evaluate the situation and make recommendations to terminate the relationship or retain the status quo.
6. The Sister City Board will review all requests to become a Sister City and make recommendations to Council.

Levels of Sister Cities

7. The City of Whitehorse will have two levels of Sister Cities:
 - (1) Active
 - (2) Honourary

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES TO REVIEW WHEN SELECTING A SISTER CITY

The following is a composite of different factors that the Board may take into consideration when identifying a potential Sister City relationship. These are suggestions only and the Board should select and prioritize the factors most important to them and the Sister City in question.

Overall Factors to take into consideration

1. Genuine interest on both sides and why.
2. Long term commitment for the relationship.
3. Adequate financial support for exchanges and maintenance of the Sister City relationship.
4. Realistic assessment of what both sides will gain by the relationship.
5. Political issues, economic, commercial, cultural realities.
6. Desire to learn from and share with the potential Sister City.
7. Comparison of key industries and existing business, economic possibilities, Universities/Colleges
8. How many other Sister Cities does each City have? Are they successful? What are

- their purposes?
9. Are their resources in the City (i.e. in place) to support the Sister City relationship? (i.e. local Ethnic population, interpreters, etc.). Is there an awareness of the responsibilities required in maintaining the relationship?
 10. What can we offer each other? Are there a variety of cultural/civic/educational resources in the City?
 11. Are there a variety of economic opportunities/resources/services which could lead to economic benefits to the City?
 12. Present degree of cooperation between Canada and foreign country in political stability, economic, commercial and cultural fields.
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