



It is my pleasure, as an elected Councillor with the City of Kelowna, to write this letter in support of the VIDEA project: Global Youth Challenge. The City of Kelowna has been working with VIDEA and its local organization, the Kelowna-Zambia Partnership (KaZ) for two years.

In 2007 Stephen Lewis spoke in Kelowna at a conference of municipal leaders and challenged us to take action to make a difference in Africa. The City of Kelowna responded to this challenge by supporting the work of VIDEA/KaZ in creating links between our city of Kelowna and the community of Senanga, in western Zambia.

Working with VIDEA and their Zambian partner organization Women for Change, we have initiated a process that has included the acknowledgement of a sister-city relationship with Senanga, and the allocation of \$2,500 of matching funds to support this work in the coming year. We are currently at the stage of working with VIDEA/KaZ to figure out how to further improve the effectiveness of this relationship.

We have seen the work that has been undertaken in our community by VIDEA/KaZ during the past two years and have been proud of the efforts of the youth in Kelowna area schools to contribute to this project. We recognize that supporting the role of youth in development is critical to addressing some of the most pressing global issues, and we are aware that the United Nations has called on local authorities globally to play a part in empowering their youth to do just this.

I am pleased to support VIDEA in this application for funding and in doing so support the youth of Kelowna to become further engaged and active in international development.

C. Hodge (per. LG)

Councillor Charlie Hodge