

Memo



Date: September 1, 2009
File: 0450-30
To: City Manager
From: Grants Manager, Strategic Initiatives Division
Subject: Hope for the Nations

Recommendation:

THAT Council acknowledge the City's support of the United Nation's Millennium development goals, and in principal, the commitment of the local organization Hope for the Nations, in their provision of informal education, housing for children, water projects and anti-trafficking activities in the City of Poipet, Cambodia.

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide information to Council in the Spring of 2010, once the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Municipal Partners Program is announced, so they may consider a more formalized relationship with the City of Poipet, Cambodia at that time.

AND FURTHER THAT Council encourage Hope for the Nations to independently seek funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to nurture municipal governance in the City of Poipet.

Background:

At the June 29th, 2009 meeting of Council, a presentation was given by Ralph Bromley, President of Hope for the Nations, a local non-profit organization that is engaged in community development, poverty reduction and gender equity issues that affect children around the world.

Mr. Bromley spoke specifically of their work in the City of Poipet, Cambodia and the relationship they have developed with the Mayor and Council of that city. Mr. Bromley was asked by the Mayor of Poipet to formally request assistance from the Mayor and Council of the City of Kelowna to develop a master plan for the City of Poipet to the year 2020.

Council asked staff to research funding and technical assistance programs that might support such an initiative through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

FCM International develops partnerships with municipalities and national associations of municipalities in a number of focus countries in Asia, Africa, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Through FCM International, FCM has involved hundreds of elected and non-elected employees from Canadian municipalities in its municipal development programs.

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FCM has explored potential Municipal Partnership Program (MPP) opportunities in Cambodia since 2002, the date of the first commune-level elections in the country. Through FCM, Canadian municipal experts work directly with their overseas counterparts on practical issues and problems.

Contact was made with FCM staff who administers the Municipal Partnership Program and they advised that currently they are unsure of the future of this program which is supported with funding through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This process is in its early stages and FCM do not expect to be able to announce program continuation or criteria until at least Spring 2010.

It is staff's understanding that Hope for the Nations could also apply, independent of the City of Kelowna, to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for funding support to initiate a municipal governance initiative and possibly hire an independent contractor to facilitate the process.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Personnel Implications:

Technical Requirements:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Considerations:

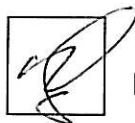
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:



L. Gunn, Grants Manager

Approved for inclusion:



D. Graham, Director of Strategic Initiatives

cc: David Graham, Director, Strategic Initiatives