

	<b>POLICY</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Twin City Policy		
<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Mayor and City Manager's Office		
<b>AUTHORIZED BY:</b>		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>		<b>REVISION DATE:</b>

Twin Cities (also known as Sister Cities) are formalized relationships between cities of two different countries, with the purpose of providing citizens the opportunity for a wide range of interactions.

Victoria City Council has established Twin City relationships with the following four cities:

- Napier, New Zealand (established in 1973)
- Suzhou, China (established in 1980)
- Morioka, Japan (established in 1985)
- Khabarovsk, Russia (established in 1990)

Twin City relationships formed before 2018 were established without guiding policy, and these relationships are maintained on a past-precedent basis.

## **A. PURPOSE**

To establish a clear criteria and selection process through which Twin City relationships may be established, and to provide guidance on protocol practices required to maintain these relationships.

## **B. DEFINITIONS**

**Twin City:** A formal agreement intended to provide educational, cultural and economic exchange opportunities between two international cities.

## **C. POLICY**

### **Evaluation Process**

The City of Victoria will consider establishing Twin City relationships with municipalities who meet all of the criteria below.

- i) Notable interest from organizations in both municipalities
- ii) Be of a similar demographic and geographical scope to Victoria, with clear economic, cultural and educational deliverables

- iii) The short- and long-term benefits of the relationship outweigh the public costs of entering into and maintaining the relationship

Staff will weigh any request received against the above criteria, and bring forward a recommendation on the proposed relationship to the City Manager. Upon approval, the proposal would then be brought forward to City Council for a formal, in-camera motion.

#### **Protocol Practices to Maintain Relationship**

Twin City organizations maintain and build relationships and exchanges. The role of the City is to:

- Correspond regularly between city officials
- Receive delegations at Victoria City Hall
- Maintain open relationship with local Twin City organizations
- Coordinate anniversary celebrations and other milestones, including invitations to Twin City municipal delegations for these events

#### **Council Approval**

Council will approve on an individual basis:

- Invitations issued to Twin Cities to visit Victoria
- A City of Victoria delegation to a Twin City
- Expenses related to hosting Twin Cities