

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Mar12\_2019**

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**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Explore Sister City Opportunity with Qiqihar, China****Report Purpose**

To provide Priority Committee an update exploring Sister City Opportunity with Qiqihar China

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 3 - Cultivate economic diversification, within the petro-chemical industry and beyond, through a business-friendly environment

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

**Report**

Qiqihar: Background

Through contacts from the China Canada Business Council, Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDTAC) committee and the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce, were presented with opportunity to explore "sister city" relationship with Qiqihar, China. This city is located in Heilongjiang Province, Northern China. The population is 5.5 million and it is located on the Harbin-Qiqihar corridor. This corridor is part of a massive economic hub with industries including petrochemicals, autos, manufacturing, energy related and agriculture. Future updates will be forthcoming.

**Next Steps that Administration will be undertaking:**

1. Monitor the current political relationship between China and Canada.
2. Research and provide background information about sister city relationships.
3. Explore the possibility of collaborating with the Government of Alberta for trade missions when appropriate to China.
4. This work is part of normal activity within Economic Development and Tourism so no cost are associated with it.

**Council and Committee History**

December 11, 2018	THAT Administration report back to Council in Q1 of 2019 on the advisability of exploring a formal municipal to municipal economic relationship with Qiqihar, China, and that the report contain recommendations on how to proceed.
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**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a