

**REPORT FOR INFORMATION****Strengthening Municipal Relationship with Vung Tau City, Vietnam****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with an update about strengthening our municipal relationship with Vung Tau City, Vietnam.

**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**

There is strong interest in strengthening the existing relationship between Strathcona County and Vung Tau City, to explore areas of mutual economic and cultural benefit, and potentially move towards a sister city and/or economic partnership.

Doing so would open doors for private sector activities between Strathcona County and Vung Tau (and the rest of Vietnam). The Vietnamese view political cooperation and formal relationships as being a fundamental precursor to doing business. Strathcona County Economic Development and Tourism will continue to explore the opportunity with partners including Alberta Industrial Heartland, Edmonton Global, Sherwood Park and District Commerce, and Government of Alberta Economic Development and Trade.

Strathcona County Economic Development and Tourism met with the Ambassador from Vietnam along with partners from Edmonton Global, Alberta Industrial Heartland, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, and Chamber of Commerce on March 5, 2019.

**Next Steps that Administration will be undertaking**

1. Follow up discussion after our meeting with the Ambassador from Vietnam along with partners for next steps.
  - a. Discuss the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership and economic opportunities between Alberta and Vietnam.
  - b. Provide the Ambassador with information on business and industry sectors that exist in the region and Strathcona County.
2. Explore what requirements are needed for a sister city and/or economic partnership within the next quarter.
3. Work with the Mayor's office to develop a letter-exploring sister city protocol with the Ambassador of Vietnam.
4. This work is part of normal activity within Economic Development and Tourism so no cost are associated with it.

**Priorities Committee Meeting\_Mar12\_2019**

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**Council and Committee History**

December 11, 2018      THAT Administration report back to Council in Q1 of 2019 on the advisability of strengthening Strathcona County's existing municipal to municipal relationship and ties with Vung Tau City, Vietnam in the context of a formal economic relationship (building on already developed relationships between our respective communities), and that the report contain recommendations on how to proceed.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** n/a

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