

# Friendship with Vũng Tàu City

Report to Priorities Committee  
November 17, 2020

# History with Vũng Tàu City

- 2006 Strathcona County participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Municipal Partnership Program with Vũng Tàu City, Vietnam.
- Development of a census for Vũng Tàu City.
- Program completed in 2010 with a playground donation in Front Beach Vũng Tàu.



# Council History

- March 2019, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Canada visited the County
- April 30, 2019 Council sent a letter to the government of Vũng Tàu City
- November 2019, Working Group formed in response to letter reply from Nguyen Lap, Chairman of the People's Committee of Vũng Tàu City
  - Letter agrees to strengthening the relationship between the two municipalities through a Memorandum of Understanding
- December 10, 2019 Status of Report
- March 11, 2020 recommendations developed by the Working Group were taken to Executive Team for approval
- Mayor's office request that the Proposal be reviewed by the COVID-19 Economic Resilience and Vision Task Force

# Working Group

- The following departments are involved in the working group:
  - Intergovernmental Affairs (lead)
  - Economic Development and Tourism
  - Recreation, Parks and Culture
  - Planning and Development Services
  - Information Technology Services

# Working Group

The working group discussed opportunities based on communication from Vũng Tàu City initially looking at the following areas:

## 1. Economic development

- Vũng Tàu is interested in bolstering their economic development in the areas of tourism, oil and gas service and engineering, and market development.

## 2. Designated as a Smart City

- Vũng Tàu is to implement smart city technology and are planning to examine options to better understand the data they are going to collect, such as understanding traffic and wastewater management.

### 3. Masterplan

- Vũng Tàu's masterplan has been approved and they are willing to share. They would like a broad range of support in their tourism development, engaging with their petrochemical development and infrastructure plan.

### 4. Urbanization

- Vũng Tàu is seeing a significant rise in population due to the movement of people from rural to urban areas. The recognition that there is a skill gap between the rural population and the needs of urban positions.



# Considerations

- Budget
  - Initial estimates
  - Low cost without travel
    - FCM Ukraine costs
  - Translator costs:
    - Text only \$0.10-\$0.20/word (Ex. 100 pg. document Approx.. \$2,500)
    - Interpreter Rates \$15-\$30/hour (Ex. Four hours - \$60-\$120)
      - Plus travel and incidentals
- Time and resources consideration
  - Department dependent
- Support from current Ambassador

# Other Considerations

- Research
  - Sister Cities organization guidelines
  - Federation of Canadian Municipalities
  - Other municipalities
- Connections to business community
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association
- Trade
  - The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
  - Alberta Economic Development and Trade
  - Canada-Vietnam Trade Council



# Next Steps

- The draft non-binding Friendship MOU, reviewed by Legislative and Legal Services, focuses on three areas that would best suit the County:
  - Cultural and recreational exchanges
  - Tourism
  - Chamber of Commerce/local business opportunities
- **Council will be asked to approve the draft MOU at the November 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.**
- Future considerations
  - Establish a directive/policy for discussing partnerships
  - Plan for future delegation (post-COVID restrictions)

# Actions

Administration can take the following action as Council directs:

- Intergovernmental Affairs will coordinate virtual meetings with Vũng Tàu City administration to finalize the Friendship MOU
- EDT will work with the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate business opportunities for local companies
- EDT will work with Vũng Tàu City administration to identify opportunities for tourist promotions. Vũng Tàu City recently joined the Tourism Promotion Organisation for Asia Pacific Cities and is working to promote local tourism
- RPC will facilitate cultural exchange and an opportunity to create a new recreational opportunity in Vũng Tàu City

# Thank you