

CITY OF AIRDRIE
TWINNING/SISTER CITY POLICY

Effective Date: July 5, 2010

Revision Date: _____

Approved By: City Council

Approved On: July 5, 2010

Resolution #: 2010-C-207

POLICY STATEMENT:

The purpose of this policy is to create guidelines within which twinning/sister city or project relationships with other municipalities may be established by the City of Airdrie.

POLICY GOALS:

- To create a global network of social, community and economic relationships that will enhance the quality of life of Airdrie residents;
- To expand and enhance cultural diversity and awareness;
- To create an international awareness of Airdrie's assets;
- To advance international understanding, goodwill and peace for future generations.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

City Council shall make the final decision on all twinning and project requests based on a review by Administration pursuant to the Twinning/Sister City Procedures.

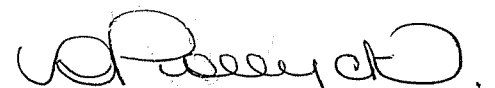
City Council reserves the right to withdraw from any or all twinning and project relationships at any point in time.

FUNDING:

Funding to host official delegations is budgeted annually and subject to Council approval. The approved Twinning budget represents the only City expenditures for these activities. Official travel for the Mayor and Members of Council and Administration regarding twinning shall come from their individual travel accounts.



Mayor



City Clerk

CITY OF AIRDRIE
TWINNING/SISTER CITY PROCEDURES

Policy: Twinning/Sister City Policy
Responsible
Department: Community Services
Approval Date:

Revision Date:

PROCESS:

1. Community Identification

A request may be received from (or conveyed to) another municipality regarding a potential twinning or specific project relationship with the City of Airdrie.

2. Evaluation

Administration undertakes research to assess the expression of interest based on established criteria; reviews the benefits and challenges of establishing a relationship; and reports results and recommendation to City Council.

3. Letter of Understanding

At City Council's direction, a Letter of Understanding is developed outlining the goals, objectives and overall intention of the future twinning or project relationship. The Letter of Understanding is signed by respective Mayors. It may take up to 12 months to explore areas to be developed (economic development, culture, sports, etc.).

4. Twinning/Project Agreement:

Should exploration of twinning or project relationship areas prove successful, the formation of a formal twinning/project agreement is initiated and subsequently signed by the respective Mayors.

5. Review

Annual discussions of the twinning or project relationship will form a basis for a formal review of the agreement within five years of the signing date, although events or circumstances may require earlier review.

CRITERIA:

The following criteria have been established for the consideration and assessment of potential candidates for a twinning or project relationship with the City of Airdrie.

General Connections

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, both communities should:

- Promote goodwill and provide potential opportunities for learning
- Benefit from the twinning relationship (not necessarily monetary)
- Have a clear understanding of the purpose and objectives of the relationship, and complementary community visions
- Provide the necessary resources to ensure a successful relationship, and be willing to promote the relationship
- Be able to effectively communicate with one another
- *Have demonstrated public desire and support for a reciprocal relationship.*

Social Well-Being

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, both communities should:

- Have public access to education, health care, and a variety of social programs (i.e. prevention, youth, seniors, religious organizations, etc.), and that these be made available to all levels of society.
- Adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Cultural/Leisure Connections

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, both communities should:

- Have public access to cultural and leisure opportunities (i.e. museum, library, performing/visual arts, festivals and sports), and that these are made available to all levels of society.
- Potential opportunities for the development of community relationships between cultural and sport groups.

Economic Connections

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, both communities should:

- Have the potential to create economic development opportunities (i.e. trade, investment opportunities, and business associations) and have complementary economic development goals and visions.
- Be economically comparable to Airdrie, and have a stable political and economic environment.

- Have complementary industrial base/sectors, and provided a range of potential opportunities for the development of relationships with small to large scale Airdrie businesses.

Environmental Connections

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, both communities should:

- Demonstrate efforts to improve the quality of life for all of its citizens with respect to its environment. Efforts may include: pollution control, reclamation, government programs, waste diversion, recycling, water conservation, and carbon reducing measures.

Other Connections:

Both communities may:

- Be of similar population size.
- Share historical significance/ties or ethnic and cultural similarities.
- Have similar infrastructure, amenities, geographic location.
- Have considerable community strengths which may facilitate in the development of cultural, sport, civic, educational, technical, economic and business exchanges on a continuous basis.