



SUBJECT: Official delegation to Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Cttee.

FROM: Clerks Department

Report Number: CL-03-20

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 130-02

Date to Committee: January 16, 2020

Date to Council: January 27, 2020

Recommendation:

Authorize travel of an official delegation to Apeldoorn, the Netherlands in May 2020 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of twinning between the City of Burlington and the City of Apeldoorn, comprised of the Mayor, Councillor liaison to the Mundialization Committee, City Manager or designate, a member of Clerks staff, Chair of the Mundialization Committee and the Chair of the Apeldoorn sub-committee to be funded from the Corporate Mundialization Initiatives account and the Mundialization Reserve Fund; and

Approve the purchase of a commemorative gift up to a value of \$2,000 including shipping, as the official gift from Burlington to Apeldoorn on the occasion of the 15th twinning anniversary.

Background and Discussion:

On February 26, 2007, Council approved recommendation CC-34-07 pertaining to a framework for managing twin city relationships in terms of gifts, official visits and associated events.

Based on the approved framework for managing twin city anniversary celebrations, an official Burlington delegation visit to Apeldoorn would consist of the Mayor or designate, the Council's appointed representative to the Burlington Mundialization Committee or designate, Chair or Vice-Chair of the Burlington Mundialization Committee, Chair of the Apeldoorn sub-committee and two city staff responsible for the twin city relationship.

In 2003 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the cities of Burlington and Apeldoorn to recognize the initiation of a twin city relationship.

In May 2005 a twinning agreement was signed between Burlington and Apeldoorn to formalize the friendship between the citizens of the two communities and to foster mutual understanding in such areas as the arts, culture, education, history, sports and business. The relationship has been demonstrated since then through regular official delegations, student and citizen exchanges and memorable anniversary celebrations.

In October 2007, Burlington's first delegation visited Apeldoorn to celebrate the twinning relationship and to attend a conference on exchange programs. As a result of this visit, Burlington and Apeldoorn approved participation in an exchange of design services leading to a park development in each of the twinned cities. The details of this arrangement are outlined in clerk's department report CL-08-08, dated May 12, 2008. Over the past few years, staff from each community have worked collaboratively to create concept plans for the two parks.

In October 2013, an official and citizen delegation travelled from Apeldoorn to Burlington to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two cities. On October 9, 2013, Apeldoorn Mayor John Berends and Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring participated in a ground-breaking ceremony at Apeldoorn Park - 1385 Elgin Street, Burlington. Apeldoorn Park features park benches, bike racks and receptacles with tulip designs, a raised planter with 700 "Tulipa Apeldoorn" and an orange coloured playground highlighting the Netherlands national colour. Travelling with Mayor and Mrs. Berends were an additional 44 delegates comprised of citizens and high school students. Burlington and Apeldoorn high school students participate in regular student exchanges.

In July 2014, Mayor Berends forwarded an invitation to Mayor Goldring to visit Apeldoorn and celebrate the cities' 10 years of twinning and attend the official opening of Burlington Park. The visit will coincide with planned celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

In May 2015, an official delegation travelled from Burlington to Apeldoorn to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the twinning between the City of Burlington and the City of Apeldoorn. The official delegation was comprised of the Mayor, Councillor liaison to the Mundialization Committee, General Manager, Chair of the Burlington Mundialization committee and chair of the Apeldoorn sub-committee.

Delegations:

The official delegation has been invited by the City of Apeldoorn to attend official twinning and liberation related celebrations and activities over a period of 9 days from May 3 – May 11, 2020. Activities being coordinated for the official delegation include a day in Wageningen, a visit to the CODA Museum, a day in Amsterdam, Liberation Luncheon in the presence of Canadian Veterans, Canadian Festival at Palace Het Loo.

A citizen tour is currently being coordinated by the Mundialization Committee. The Committee has been actively recruiting Burlington citizens to travel to Apeldoorn from May 3 – May 10, 2020. Burlington citizens will experience Dutch culture as they stay with host families while in Apeldoorn and participate in the official events coordinated by the City of Apeldoorn as well as Liberation Day activities.

The trip to Apeldoorn will be a unique experience as the Burlington delegations attend both twinning and Liberation celebrations. Both the official and citizen delegations will attend several Liberation celebrations. Canada and the Netherlands have a rich history that dates back to WWI and Canada's participation in the Liberation of the Netherlands.

Gift

The gift has not been finalized. Staff and the Mundialization Committee are currently exploring options that complement the park exchange program.

Financial Matters:

There are several financial components related to the recommendations in this report. The projected costs of travelling to Apeldoorn in 2020 were provided by DHTour. DHTour has been the Vendor of Record for City travel arrangements since 2004. The following table briefly outlines costs associated with a seven-night stay.

	Seven Night Stay (official events)
Air	\$1,070 per person
Accommodation	\$800 per person (TBC)
Total	\$1,870 per person

*prices may not include all taxes/surcharges.

*changes in exchange rates could affect pricing

*single room supplements to be added if applicable

Expense allowances for members of the official delegation will be paid in accordance with City Organizational Policy 7-30, Travel Expenses.

The cost of an official gift to Apeldoorn would be funded from the corporate Mundialization initiatives account and will not exceed \$2000 including any shipping that may be required.

Total Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Source of Funding

Costs associated with sending an official delegation to Apeldoorn in May 2020 would be funded from the corporate Mundialization initiatives account (two Council members and up to two staff). The cost for sending two members of the Mundialization Committee would be funded from the Mundialization Committee cost centre.

The cost of an official gift to Apeldoorn would be funded from the corporate Mundialization initiatives account and will not exceed \$2000 including any shipping that may be required.

Climate Implications

Climate Implications

The travel involved with an official delegation visit to Apeldoorn will produce greenhouse gas emissions. All travel arrangements would be made with all efforts to reduce, limit or mitigate climate impacts. For example, using electric vehicles when possible, carpool, investigate offset programs, research the method of travel with the least amount of climate impact and choose those methods when possible.

One of the priorities moving forward will be to share best practices, leading edge technologies, and climate change initiatives with twin cities both at the partnership level and friendship level.

Enterprise Risk:

Not applicable.

Engagement Matters:

The City of Burlington website and social media will be used to make residents aware of the 15th twinning anniversary related events and to inform them about the history and significance of Burlington's twinning relationship with Apeldoorn, the Netherlands.

Conclusion:

City of Burlington staff and members of the Burlington Mundialization Committee are eager to continue planning for the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the twinning between Burlington and Apeldoorn and to further cultivate the partnership and bond that has developed between our two cities over the past ten years.

Respectfully submitted,

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Committee Clerk

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Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council. Final approval is by the City Manager.