



## City Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Twin City Relationship with Morioka, Japan

Date: Friday, May 21, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — As the Victoria Day weekend draws near, the City of Victoria is preparing for the arrival of six official delegates from Morioka, Japan, including Mayor Hiroaki Tanifuji and Chair of the Municipal Assembly Eiichi Sato to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their Twin City relationship.

“This is a wonderful chance to celebrate our long-standing friendship with Morioka,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “Our two cities are linked, economically and culturally. It is a real honour to host Mayor Tanifuji and the whole delegation and to mark this impressive anniversary.”

Accompanying the official delegation are 100 citizens from Morioka, including the Sansa Odori drummers and dancers who will perform during the Victoria Day Parade Monday.

In addition to the Sansa Odori performance in the Victoria Day Parade, public events to mark the anniversary include a tree planting ceremony on Sunday, May 23 at 11 a.m. at Mayor’s Grove in Beacon Hill Park and an Official Signing Ceremony at City Hall on Tuesday, May 25 at 8:45 a.m.

The Twin City relationship between Victoria and Morioka developed after the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Nitobe, a widely respected Japanese diplomat and philosopher, who died in Victoria in 1933. Dr. Nitobe wished to serve as a bridge across the Pacific and it is in his spirit that the relationship is nurtured. He is highly revered in the town of his birth, Morioka, and throughout Japan.

The signing of the Twin City agreement with Morioka in 1985 marked the beginning of a series of visits and exchanges, including numerous cultural and sporting exchanges, both official and private.

Victoria’s three other twin cities are Napier, New Zealand; Suzhou, China and Khabarovsk, Russia. The purpose of Twin City relationships is to foster and promote global cooperation, cultural understanding and economic development.

— 30 —

\*Media are also invited to a photo opportunity Tuesday, May 25, at 10:15 a.m. when Morioka Firefighters meet with the City of Victoria Fire Department at Victoria Fire Station 1, 1234 Yates Street.

**For More Information:**

Katie Josephson  
Director of Corporate Communications  
Office: 250.361.0210  
Cellular: 250.217.8343