



Mayor Fortin Leads Delegation to Morioka, Japan

Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2010

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Led by Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin, a delegation from Victoria will travel to Morioka, Japan to mark the 25th anniversary of our Twin City relationship.

“The relationship between Victoria and Morioka is more than just symbolic, our cities are linked culturally and economically,” says Mayor Fortin. “We have much to learn from each other, especially in the areas of cultural tourism, education, and civic pride.”

The group leaves on Thursday, September 9 for the nine-day mission, which also includes two days in Tokyo.

Accompanying Mayor Fortin will be City Manager, Gail Stephens. Sasha Angus, the Economic Development Officer for the Greater Victoria Development Agency will accompany the delegation to help foster business networks; Inspector Les Sylen of the Victoria Police will also be joining the delegation in order to meet with and learn from police experts; and Paul Destrooper, the Artist Director for Ballet Victoria, and dancer Andrea Bayne will be part of the delegation to highlight the artistic achievements of Victoria.

A Creative Peace Mural, designed and constructed jointly by artists and members of the community in Victoria and Morioka will be unveiled during the visit. The mural is a gift to the City of Morioka from the City of Victoria and the Victoria Morioka Friendship Society in honour of the 25th anniversary of our Twin City relationship.

Members of the Victoria Morioka Friendship Society and the Creative Peace Mural Society will join the Mayor’s delegation in Japan.

Mayor Fortin will have selected opportunities to report back on the progress of the trip from Japan. The trip highlights and full list of delegates is attached.

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For More Information:

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Name	Title	Organization
City of Victoria Participants		
Dean Fortin	Mayor	City of Victoria
Gail Stephens	City Manager	City of Victoria
Sheryl Masters	Manager, Administration and Protocol	City of Victoria
Inspector Les Sylven	Officer In Charge, Human Resources	Victoria City Police
Sasha Angus	Economic Development Officer	Greater Victoria Development Agency
Paul Destrooper	Artistic Director	Ballet Victoria
Andrea Bayne	Dancer	Ballet Victoria
Victoria Morioka Friendship Society Participants		
Roy Katsuyama		
Misao Katsuyama		
Dick Nakamura		
Henry Shimizu		
Bill McCreadie		
Rita McCreadie		
Harjinder Aheer		
Barbara Cameron		
Daniel Toth		
Toni Vincent		
Eiko Larson		
Peace Mural Participants, Creative Peace Mural Society		
Lilly Wallace		
Noreen Cronk		
Denise Riley		

MORIOKA / TOKYO MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Morioka – September 10th through September 14th (Hosted by Morioka, with Victoria Morioka Friendship Society)

- Roundtable discussions with local emergency services and local government agencies
- Roundtable discussions with Morioka Chamber of Commerce and knowledge-based industries
- Roundtable discussion with City Administration related to Customer Service Strategies and Economic development Strategies
- Presentation of completed Peace Mural exhibit by local Victoria artisans and the Victoria Morioka Friendship Society
- Cultural exchange with Kurosawa Ballet, Master Class presentation by Ballet Victoria and performances by Ballet Victoria
- Victoria Road Dedication ceremony
- Presentation of salmon statue to Morioka by local resident and former Morioka Friendship Society President Dick Nakamura
- Morioka Jr. High Students “Flag Art”, Meeting with School Representatives
- Protocol Meetings, Celebrations, Cultural Events and Exchanges
- Participate in Morioka Aki Matsuri (Annual Autumn Festival of Morioka Hachimangu Shrine)