Mayor’s Delegation Reports on Successes from China Trip

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

VICTORIA, BC – This morning at Victoria City Hall, Mayor Fortin, Dallas Gislason of the Greater Victoria Development Agency, and other members of the Victoria delegation to China held a public session to share opportunities and relationships resulting from their recent trip. In attendance at today’s event were representatives from Tourism Victoria, University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, Camosun College, and Sooke School District.

“This trip was an opportunity for Victoria to continue to build on our strong relationship with China and foster further economic ties,” noted Mayor Dean Fortin. “Victoria has a vibrant local economy that is diverse and growing. It is important that we continue to nurture international relationships that bring investment, spur local growth and success, and enhance cultural development.”

The 10 day mission took place from October 20 to 30 and included representatives from the business, tourism, and education sectors within Greater Victoria. The delegation visited Shanghai, Suzhou, Changsha, Beijing, Tianjin, and Baotou.

“Building on the successes of the 2010 China mission this trip initiated and helped maintain relationships in China that are estimated to be worth $10 million per year to the local economy,” said Dallas Gislason of the Greater Victoria Development Agency. “The potential value of this mission is much higher and could grow significantly as we nurture the established relationships between now and the next possible mission in a couple years.”

Members of the delegation noted that many Victoria-based businesses and institutions are already doing business with China, but enforced the need to consistently maintain and strengthen the relationships – a key aspect to doing business in China.

China is currently BC’s second largest trade partner and the fastest growing cohort of international students to BC are coming from China. It is the most populated country in the world at 1.34 billion people. Since the 1978 economic reforms, China has risen to become a global super-power and is expected to become the largest economy in the world in the next 15 years (currently second behind the United States).

* Documents Attached – 2012 China Mission Report and Itinerary Summary

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