

# City of Richmond

## Sister City Advisory Committee

### 2020 Year in Review

#### 2020 Summary:

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (since 1967), Wakayama, Japan (since 1973), and Xiamen, China (since 2012); as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (since 2008). Information from various SCAC activities and events are outlined in the following pages.

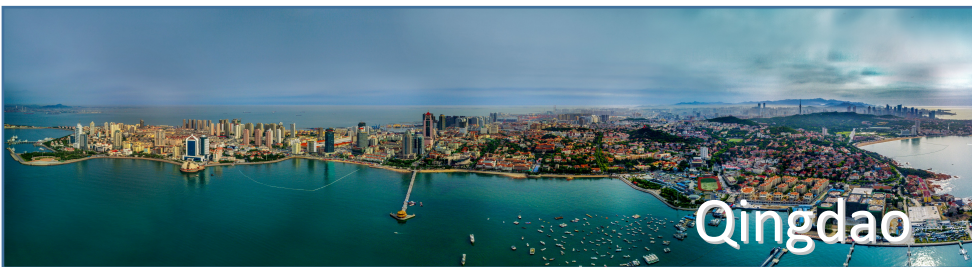
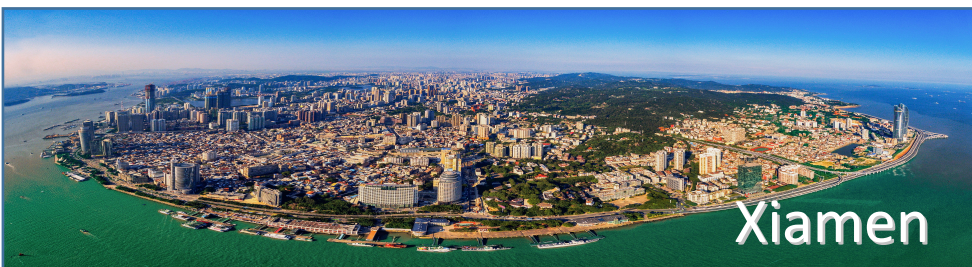
#### 2020 Committee Members:

<b>Chair</b>	Lisa MacNeil
<b>Vice Chair, Pierrefonds</b>	Allen Chan
<b>Vice-Chair, Wakayama</b>	Glenn Kishi
<b>Vice-Chair, Qingdao</b>	Melissa Zhang
<b>Vice-Chair, Xiamen</b>	Helen Quan
<b>Members</b>	Seemah Aaron
	Charan Gill
	Bernard Loh
	Joan Page
	Sue Tian
	Polly Tang
	Jenny Zhang
	Victor Zhou
<b>Council Liaison</b>	Councillor Linda McPhail
<b>School Board Liaison</b>	Heather Larson
	Donna Sargent (Alternate)

## 2020 Sister City Relationship Highlights

### January

- Newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.



#### **Richmond's Sister and Friendship Cities: Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Xiamen, Qingdao**

- The SCAC elected the Chair and Vice-Chairs for Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Qingdao and Xiamen sub-committees and selected members to the following sub-committees:
  - Pierrefonds Sub-Committee;
  - Wakayama Sub-Committee;
  - Qingdao Sub-Committee; and
  - Xiamen Sub-Committee.

- The City received New Years greetings from the City of Pierrefonds  
*“We would like to take this opportunity to wish to all City of Richmond employees, the Municipal Council and residents, a happy new year filled with meaningful relationships, health and successful realizations.”*
  
- In celebration of the rich history of the Sister City Program and the SCAC’s 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from January 13 to January 21 a photo exhibit titled “Past Influencing Present” was displayed in Richmond City Hall. The display featured four themes:
  - Relationship moments from the signing of twinning agreements and milestone anniversary celebrations;
  - 45 years of student exchanges to Wakayama, Japan;
  - 2019 Sister City Program activity highlights; and
  - Scenery of Richmond’s sister/friendship cities.



## Past Influencing Present Sister City / Friendship City Photo Exhibition

January 13–31, 2020

This photo exhibition is part of the City of Richmond’s Sister City Program, which fosters mutual understanding and meaningful connections with other cities and cultures in the interest of our citizens for their common benefit. Through the Sister City Advisory Committee, Richmond City Council supports a number of visit and non-visit activities with Richmond’s Sister and Friendship Cities including Pierrefonds, Canada (1967); Wakayama, Japan (1973); Xiamen, China (2012) and Qingdao, China (2008). The Sister City Advisory Committee is a Council appointed volunteer committee and has been supporting the Sister City Program since 1974.

The *Past Influencing Present*, Sister City/Friendship City Photo Exhibition features four themes:

- Key relationship moments between the City of Richmond and its Sister/ Friendship relationships;
- 45 years of student exchanges to Wakayama, Japan;
- 2019 Sister City Program activity highlights; and
- Scenery from Richmond’s Sister and Friendship cities.

**January 13–22, 2020**

Features photos from Pierrefonds, Quebec and Wakayama, Japan

**January 22–31, 2020**

Features photos from Xiamen, China and Qingdao, China

For more information about the Sister City Program, please visit [www.Richmond.ca/sistercity](http://www.Richmond.ca/sistercity) or contact [richmondsistercity@gmail.com](mailto:richmondsistercity@gmail.com).



**“Past Influencing Present” Photo Exhibit which ran from January 13-21, 2020**

## February

- The City received Chinese New Year greetings from Xiamen.  
*“We look forward to a fruitful new year of strengthened exchange and cooperation. May the New Year bring you every happiness and success!”*
- The City received Chinese New Year greetings from Qingdao.  
*“We are confident that with your efforts, our friendship will be further deepened and cooperation enhanced. In 2020, we look forward to more cooperation with the city of Richmond in education, culture and youth exchange activities.”*
- Mayor Malcolm Brodie sent messages of care to Pierrefonds, Wakayama, Xiamen and Qingdao at the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- On February 18, 2020, Lisa MacNeil, Allen Chan and Helen Quan presented Mayor Malcolm Brodie and members of Council with a gift showcasing the City Skyline bookmark series created in 2019.



Left to Right: Allen Chan, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Lisa MacNeil, Helen Quan

## April

- Starting in April, the Sister City Advisory Committee paused formal meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of City Hall. Sister City members met informally to progress SCP initiatives and maintain contact with Richmond’s Sister and Friendship city contacts.



## June

- As the pandemic lockdown continued, there was an increased interest in virtual activities with Richmond’s Sister Cities. Therefore, in partnership with the Richmond Public Library Board and staff, the “One Book, Three Cities” book club was able to launch with its feature book “Dear Life” by Alice Munro.

Residents in Richmond, Xiamen and Qingdao participated in an online discussion forum from June 24 to August 22. The program was a great success and there was not only participation from the three cities but all over the world.



**WINNER OF THE WORLD PRIZE IN LITERATURE**

**DEAR LIFE**  
ALICE MUNRO

**SUMMER READING 2020**  
**ONE BOOK, THREE CITIES**

**RICHMOND**

**XIAMEN**

**QINGDAO**

Teens and adults -  
Join the conversation this summer!

Participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual online book discussion with readers from Xiamen and Qingdao, China.

The forum is open from June 24 to August 28.

Visit <https://scp.yourlibrary.ca> to register.

For more information, call 604-231-6413.

Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee  
Richmond  
Richmond Public Library

Promotional Poster for “One book, Three Cities” book club

## August

- The SCAC responded to a request from Wakayama, who is compiling a Sister City booklet which introduces Wakayama's Sister Cities to the residents of Wakayama City. The booklet is scheduled to be published in May 2021.

## September

- In September 2020, the Sister City Advisory Committee started meeting virtually. Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and the cancellation of public events, the SCAC turned focus to administrative work and future planning including preparing a social media plan, preparing for upcoming anniversary milestones in 2022 and 2023, and addressing referrals from Council.

## November

- The SCAC had its final meeting where the Committee scored each of the Sister/Friendship cities participation over the past year. All cities achieved a highly engaged score on the Sister City Program's annual relationship scorecard.