

March 29th, 2019

Mayor Mike Hurley and Councillor James Wang
 City of Burnaby
 4949 Canada Way
 Burnaby, BC
 V5G 1M2

Note from Clerks Office:

Report from International Relations and
 Friendship Cities Committee appears on
 the Council Agenda for 2019 April 08.

Dear Sirs,

As the board of trade in one of the most diverse communities in the country, we understand the importance and value of fostering and strengthening international relationships, and encourage the City of Burnaby to establish such a relationship with the City of Padua, Italy.

Over the years, the Burnaby Board of Trade has hosted international delegations from and participated in visits to Burnaby's sister and friendship cities including Kushiro, Japan, Hwaseong, Korea and Zhongshan, China. The benefits of developing these types of relationships is a deepening of cultural understanding and the creation of potential economic collaboration. I can personally attest to the value of these types of relationships in facilitating trade and business activity.

To date, much focus has been on building relationships in Asia. However, we were excited to learn that the City of Padua in Italy has indicated an interest in starting a dialogue toward an eventual sister city relationship with the City of Burnaby. The settlement of the Italian community in all parts of the country, including Burnaby, has profoundly impacted the Canadian cultural and business landscape. In fact, we are proud to share that Milani Plumbing, Drainage and Heating, the 2018 Burnaby Business Hall of Fame inductee, chose to make Burnaby its home many decades ago when the founder immigrated to our community from Italy.

Like Padua, the City of Burnaby has grown to be a significant and diverse hub for businesses in the life sciences, technology, and innovation sectors. In addition, Burnaby and Padua both have strong post-secondary education sectors in our respective cities.

The Burnaby Board of Trade encourages the City of Burnaby to pursue a sister city agreement with the City of Padua, and I would be delighted to discuss this further and explore any ways the Burnaby Board of Trade could be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Paul Holden
 President and CEO
 Burnaby Board of Trade

Copied to:
 City Manager
 Dir. Corporate Services
 Executive Assistant to Mayor

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