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November 21, 2019

Mayor Mike Hurley
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby
British Columbia, V5G 1M2
CANADA

Dear Mayor Hurley,

On behalf of the city of Kushiro, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you, the members of the city council, the entire staff and the people of the city of Burnaby.

Hokkaido Kushiro Meiki High School will conduct its fourth training program in Burnaby from November 30 through December 6 of this year. This is for the students to improve their English communication skills and to cultivate cross-cultural understanding. It is my pleasure to introduce four students from Kushiro and their accompanying teacher, Ms. Yukie Noda.

Meiki High School is the only high school in Hokkaido with a designated Indigenous 'Ainu Studies' class, inviting local people, including the indigenous people, to teach their language, history and culture. This includes traditional cuisine, music and embroidery. In addition, Meiki High School hosts the students of the Asahi Blades with their cultural programs during their visit to Kushiro. Because of these perspectives, Burnaby, a City of Diversity, is an ideal location to their training program.

In the previous year, the thoughtful arrangements by your office kindly offered the training participants an invaluable opportunity to learn the history and development of Burnaby. This was done, through the lecture on the City Council by Councillor Pietro Calendino and explanations by volunteers at the Burnaby Village Museum.

The training participants have been making preparations to develop mutual understanding between the two cities and cultures with Burnaby's students in English. I hope that this project will be fruitful for everyone involved, and contribute to fostering friendship as well as exchanges in the younger generations of the two cities.

Sincerely yours,

EBINA Hiroya
Mayor

