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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Abbotsford Delegation Visits Sister City, Fukagawa**

**Abbotsford, August 11, 2010** – Delegates from Abbotsford will be visiting Sister City in Fukagawa, Japan, from August 16 – 23 to further strengthen the ties between the two sister cities, announced Mayor George W. Peary.

Mayor George W. Peary will be joined by members of the Sister City Advisory Committee on the trade mission including Aird Flavelle, Chair of the Sister City Advisory Committee, and Bel Ranji, Sister City Committee Member. The delegation will explore potential educational, economic and tourism opportunities with the sister city.

“We are extremely fortunate to be able to explore and learn about our sister city’s culture, education and tourism opportunities,” said Mayor George W. Peary. “These kinds of cultural exchanges are always valuable. Our communities are very similar in size, landscape and economic make-up and the delegations always leave with innovative ideas on how to do things better, or how to apply a new solution to a homegrown problem. The information exchanged is invaluable.”

The delegation will visit many sites during their seven day mission including Takushoku University, Fukagawa General Hospital, Yakara Textile Museum/Plant, Fukagawa Shrine, City Hall, and various other educational and public facilities.

The Memorandum for the Twinning of Fukagawa City, Hokkaido, Japan, and the City of Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada, was signed in Abbotsford, on May 13, 1998, by Deputy Mayor Ohnishi and Mayor Ferguson.

The purpose of the Memorandum was to agree to continue the relationship between the two cities, through deepened mutual understanding, exchange of friendship, and education in culture, economics, history, and other areas of mutual interest.

Fukagawa is a city located in Sorachi, Hokkaidō, Japan. As of 2008, the city has an estimated population of 24,448. The city was founded on May 1, 1963.

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