



Richmond Sister City Advisory Committee

2024 Year in Review



Summary

The Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC) manages the relationships with three official Sister Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec (est. 1967), Wakayama, Japan (est. 1973), and Xiamen, China (est. 2012), as well as one Friendship City: Qingdao, China (est. 2008). Highlights from various 2024 SCAC activities can be found in the following pages and on the City’s website at richmond.ca/sistercity.

2024 Committee Members

Chair	Lisa MacNeil
Vice Chair, Pierrefonds	Charan Gill
Vice Chair, Wakayama	Polly Tang
Vice Chair, Xiamen	Melissa Zhang
Vice Chair, Qingdao	Vacant
Members	Danny Chen
	Theresa Chen
	Andy Cheung
	Qin Ji
	E-Von Lai
	Jordan Oye
	Karen Shigeno
	William Ying
Council Liaison	Councillor Andy Hobbs
School Board Liaison	Trustee Ken Hamaguchi
	Trustee Alice Wong (Alternate)

Sister City Advisory Committee Turns 50

Reaching a significant milestone, 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the Sister City Advisory Committee (SCAC). Established by the Richmond Municipal Council on February 11, 1974, the Committee was originally named the Sister City Twinning Committee. Since its inception, the Sister City Program (SCP) remains steadfast in its mandate.

The Committee is dedicated to preserving its history while fostering a successful future through ongoing relationship building and activities. As the 50th sitting committee members, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation for all those who have served before us and encourage people to get involved in the future — this is a rewarding volunteer experience.



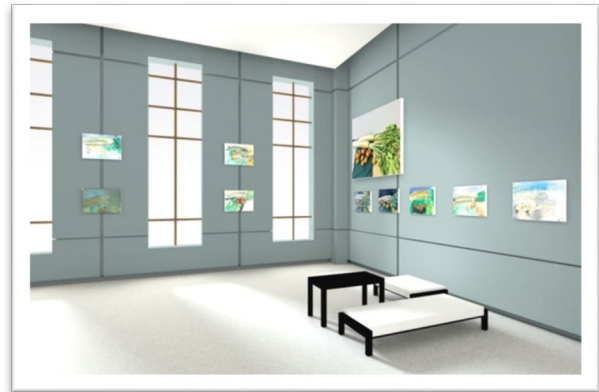
Appointed 1974-2024 Committee Members

Seemah Aaron	Theresa Chen	RN Hobbis	Tony Kwan	Razzak Paracha	Laurie Taylor
Roy Akune	Andy Cheung	H Hodgson	E-Von Lai	Marion Pavelich	Sue Tian
Danielle Alie	Ahlay Chin	Alan Holmgren	Kevin Lainchbury	C Percival-Smith	Hoz Tomita
Andy Anderson	Boo Jock Chong	Irene Howard	Chuck Linton	Arthur Pihl	Charles Turenne
Gwen Anderson	Linda Cliff	James Hsieh	Max Liu	WH Preston	Francis Turmeau
Barry Armstrong	Joan Clifford	G Imai	Wei Liu	Richard Qiu	Adrian Van Veghel
Ernest R Ball	Eileen Dawson	Qin Ji	Weiping Liu	Helen Quan	Iryna Vodchenko
Sylvain Beaulieu	W Dellebuur	Gretchen Jones	Bernard Loh	Shaolin Rahman	Cindy Wang
Priscilla Bollo	Mel Douglas	Jack Jones	Doreen Lloyd	Gerry Retallick	David Yang
Gerry Bouman	Bill Drakos	Ozzie Kaban	Christina Ma	Hugh Ross	Stanley Yeh
Ben Branscombe	Andrea Dulay	Michiko Kadota	Lisa MacNeil	Carl Savage	William Ying
Jack Brooks	Gordon Ellis	Glenn Kishii	Ihsan Malik	Florian Schmidt	Ted M Youngberg
Donalda Buie	Betty Forster	E Kja	Eric McIntosh	Karen Shigeno	Amy Yu
BM Byrne	Ed Gavsie	Kjeld Kjar	Mae McKay	Michael Sirota	Bennie Yung
GH Carroll	H Gilbertson	Mildred Kjar	Lanky Mizuguchi	Hillary Smith	Juliana Yung
R(Bob) Carkner	Charan Gill	Allen Knapp	Stephanie Mogg	Maurice Smith	Eden Jiang Zhang
Allen Chan	Joan Goodwin	AL Knutson	Gayle Morris	Pam Smith	Jenny Zhang
Corinna Chan	Mel Goodwin	Jim Kojima	Jim C Murray	Howard Smythe	Melissa Zhang
Kailin Che	Nellie Gracan	Verna Kojima	Kim Ng	Walter Soo	Sophie Zhang
Danny Chen	Joe Greenholtz	Randy Komar	Madeline Noble	Nicholas Sturtevant	Mandy Zhao
John Chen	Sylvia Gwozd	Bob Kosaka	Jordan Oye	Polly Tang	Carol Zheng
Michelle Chen	Hans Havas	K Kumagai	Joan Page	Gordon Taniwa	Victor Zhou

2024 Sister City Program Highlights

January

- The newly appointed SCAC members were introduced at the first meeting in January.
- The SCAC elected:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair, Pierrefonds;
 - Vice Chair, Wakayama;
 - Vice Chair, Xiamen; and
 - Vice Chair, Qingdao.
- From January 9 – June 9, 2024, the SCAC, in partnership with Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC), hosted an online exhibition showing the Lord Byng Elementary School Grade 4 and 5 students' artwork. The students participated in a virtual art workshop instructed by a Wakayama artist in November 2023. With the help of a translator, the students learned how to draw and paint persimmons, daikons, and mikans, all native to Wakayama.



Online Gallery

February

- The City of Richmond sent Chinese New Year greetings to Xiamen and Qingdao.



Chinese New Year Greeting from City Council (left) and Sister City Advisory Committee (right)

- To celebrate Valentine's Day, 30 Richmond kindergarten and grade 1 students participated in the tradition of sending Valentine's Day cards to seniors at Manoir Pierrefonds, a retirement home in Pierrefonds.
- On February 16, 2024, committee members participated in the Richmond School Board's District Convention at MacNeill Secondary School. The Committee hosted two chats to share information about Richmond's Sister City Program and encouraged primary and intermediate teachers to get involved. This activity was in partnership with the Richmond School Board.
- From February 21 – March 8, 2024, an exhibition was held at City Hall highlighting our Friendship City, Qingdao, China. The exhibition featured photos, illustrations, informational brochures, and postcards.



Qingdao Photo Exhibition

March

- From March 1 – 29, 2024, SCAC hosted a photo exhibition to celebrate the Committee's 50th milestone anniversary. Photos were on display at the Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda Gallery. The photos featured:
 - Signing of twinning documents;
 - Scenery of our Sister/Friendship Cities;
 - Tribute to committee membership over 50 years; and
 - City's choice – our Sister/Friendship Cities selected a photo.

Committee Members Scroll
1974 - 2024

- On March 9, 2024, four teams from Richmond high schools participated in the Japan Bowl® competition. The Japan Bowl is a Japanese language and culture competition for high school students who are studying Japanese, sponsored in part by the Government of Japan, the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, and the Nikkei Centre. The Richmond team, McMath Secondary School's 'LARGE FRIES', won the competition.
- From March 22 – 26, 2024, 12 athletes and seven coaches from the Steveston Judo Club travelled to Wakayama, Japan. This was supported by the SCAC. The Club had a fantastic experience training and participating in judo tournaments where they learned new skills and fostered connections with Wakayama athletes.

April

- In April, General Currie Elementary School in Richmond and Xiamen students participated in National Card Writing Month. The students in Xiamen were delighted to receive postcards adorned with old Canadian stamps. Two rounds of postcards were exchanged between the students.
- On April 7, 2024, the Sakura tent of Richmond's Cherry Blossom Festival was adorned with Cherry Blossom (桜まつり) chōchins – Japanese paper lanterns. SCAC contributed chōchins to commemorate their 50th milestone anniversary and support this local festival. Notably, these lanterns travelled all the way from Japan, to authentically represent the very lanterns used in our Sister City, Wakayama.



Chōchin

May

- The Committee supported the information exchange and connection between two like groups from Richmond and Pierrefonds: the Textile Arts Guild of Richmond (TAGOR) and Pierrefonds' Yarn Arts Club "The Wool Pack".

June

- Throughout the 2023/2024 school year, Richmond elementary school students participated in a pen pal program. Richmond students exchanged letters and greeting cards with students in Pierrefonds, Xiamen, and Qingdao.

July

- The Committee turned to social media to share a throwback message from the Steveston Salmon Festival Canada Day 1968 parade, in which the Mayors of Richmond and Pierrefonds participated. On July 29, 2024, Sister City Pierrefonds posted on Facebook to acknowledge the 57th twinning anniversary.



July 2024 Social Media Posts: Richmond (left); Pierrefonds (right)

August

- The SCAC reviewed and refreshed the public-facing Richmond Sister City Program webpage. Visit the updated page at richmond.ca/sistercity.

September

- From September 27 – November 1, 2024, SCAC hosted the annual photo exhibition. This year's photo exhibition showcased local fire departments from our Sister/Friendship Cities, featuring:
 - Main fire hall;
 - Fire truck; and
 - Specialty fire fighting equipment.

Photos were on display at the Richmond Cultural Centre Upper Rotunda Gallery.



Getting to Know Our Cities Photo Exhibition – Fire Departments

Top Row: Richmond | Middle Row: Pierrefonds (left), Wakayama (right)

Bottom Row: Xiamen (left), Qingdao (right)

October

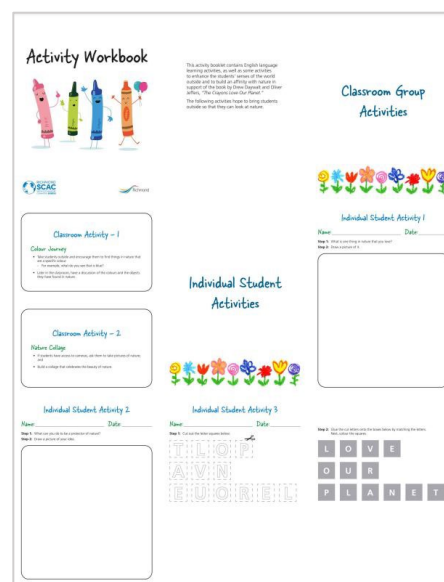
- The Committee created a poster to highlight international marathons in Wakayama, Japan, and Xiamen, China. The posters were displayed at local community centres.



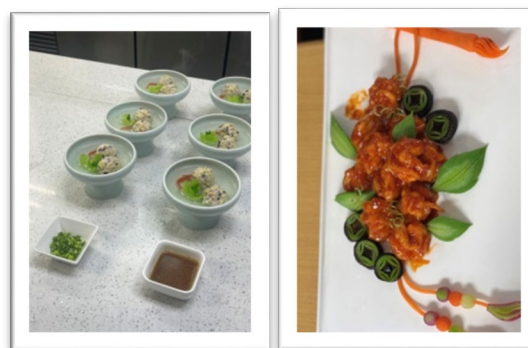
Marathon Poster

November

- In celebration of the Committee's 50th anniversary, the book: "The Crayons Love Our Planet," was gifted to school children in Pierrefonds. This story is a valuable resource for understanding key concepts such as sustainability, collaboration, and teamwork.
- In addition to the book, an Activity Workbook was created by the SCAC, containing activity sheets designed to enhance the learning experience. These interactive activities will help students engage with the themes of the book in a hands-on way.
- On November 20, 2024, in partnership with the Qingdao Foreign Affairs Office, SCAC members participated in a virtual cooking pilot of "Tastes of Our Cities" with Chef Qingquan Wang from Qingdao Vocational and Technical College of Hotel Management. He showed the participants how to cook Shandong steamed pork balls and shrimp balls with tomato sauce – classic Qingdao dishes.



Activity Book



Classic Qingdao Dishes

December

- The SCAC scored each of the Sister/Friendship Cities' participation over the past year. All cities achieved a high score for engagement on the Sister City Program's annual relationship scorecard.



2024 Sister City Advisory Committee

*From left to right: William Ying, Charan Gill, Melissa Zhang, E-Von Lai,
Lisa MacNeil, Danny Chen, Polly Tang, Qin Ji, Andy Cheung, Karen Shigeno
Absent: Theresa Chen and Jordan Oye*

Thank You

Thank you to City Council for their ongoing support of the Sister City Program in fostering meaningful connections between Richmond residents and residents of our Sister/Friendship Cities.

Thank you to our Sister/Friendship Cities: Pierrefonds, Quebec; Wakayama, Japan; Xiamen, China; and Qingdao, China.