



CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE NEWS RELEASE

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First Phase of Twinning with Fusong China Completed

After a world-wide tour of the People's Republic of China, the ink is now dry on the Twinning agreement with Fusong.

In an event packed trip, Mayor Scott Nelson and Councillor Ed Mead journeyed East and came away with a solid commitment from the Chinese Government to improve the understanding and friendship between the people of the two cities. The Chinese Government, who picked up the majority of the cost of the trip, gave the politicians a royal welcome. Mayor Nelson was ecstatic with the results, "I can't tell you how wonderful it was to be greeted by such a warm gracious people. They opened their country and their hearts to us and we have established a strong bond with the Chinese people that will bring nothing but great benefits for Williams Lake and Fusong."

The agreement includes the promise by both communities to establish the relationship of friendly cities based on the principles of mutual benefit. This includes cooperation with each other in economy, trade, science, technology, agriculture, culture, tourism, education, sports, health and talents in order to achieve common prosperity and development.

It was also agreed that the leaders and related departments on both sides will keep in regular touch so as to discuss communication and common concerns. The treaty which is valid for five years can be continued indefinitely if both cities agree to do so.

Williams Lake is already seeing a response. The City website, which recently posted a Chinese version, has received several emails from interested parties in China who are requesting information. Councillor Ed Mead comments, "The tourism aspect of this partnership alone could make the trip worthwhile. We already have several Chinese business interests booked to visit us in the coming months."

Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North and Parliamentary Secretary for the Asia Pacific Initiative stated, "I am pleased to assist in the signing of an agreement which enables Williams Lake and the Fusong County to form a partnership as the gateways to the two regions. Through the involvement of our two local governments and business communities, this initiative will bring many opportunities to the benefits of our people."

For more information on the program please contact:

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