



# PROCEDURE

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**PROCEDURE NO:** 209•1

**PAGE:** 1 of 3

**TITLE:** Guidelines for Twinning/Sister Communities

**APPROVAL DATE:** May 23, 2006

**POLICY:** Twinning/Sister Communities

**REVISION DATE:**

**SECTION:** Community Services

**RESPONSIBLE**

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

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## PROCESS

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### Identification of a Community

- Request is received from (or conveyed to) another community regarding a potential twinning or specific project relationship with the City of Grande Prairie.

### Evaluation

- Economic Development staff undertake research to assess the expression of interest based on Grande Prairie's criteria.
- Review of benefits and challenges of establishing a relationship and anticipated community interest for such a relationship.
- Report results/recommendations to Community Development Committee/City Council.

### Letter of Intent

- Development of a Letter of Intent outlining the goals, objectives and overall intention of a future twinning or project relationship.
  - Signing of Letter of Intent by respective Mayors.
  - Take up to 12 months to explore areas to be developed (economic development, culture, sports, etc.).
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## SPECIAL CRITERIA

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In order for a community, domestic or international, to be considered as a potential candidate for a twinning or project relationship with the City of Grande Prairie, it is preferable that the criteria contained within the following categories be considered:

1. General
2. Social Inclusiveness
3. Economic Development
4. Other Criteria

### **General Criteria**

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, both communities may:

- Be able to promote goodwill and provide potential opportunities for learning.
- Benefit from the twinning relationship (not necessarily monetarily).
- Have a clear understanding of the purpose and objectives of the relationship.
- Provide the necessary resources to ensure a successful relationship.
- Be able to communicate effectively with one another.
- Be willing to take part in the promotion of the relationship.
- Have complementary community visions.

### **Social Inclusiveness Criteria**

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, the identified community may:

- Have a structured business community, or attempts to create one.
- Structure (or attempt to structure) all facets of community economic development.
  - Access to equity/capital
  - Access to lending
  - Access to education
  - Access to infrastructure
  - Access to social programs, including culture, for all levels of society

### **Economic Development Criteria**

In order to be considered for a twinning or project relationship, the identified community may:

- Have the potential of developing economic development activities such as trade, investment opportunities, business alliances, business development and promotion.
- Be economically comparable with Grande Prairie.
- Have a stable political and economic environment.
- Have complementary industrial base/sectors.
- Have complementary economic development goals and visions.
- Have business associations that are able to assist with the coordinating of economic missions.
- Provide a range of potential opportunities for the development of relationships with small to large scale Grande Prairie businesses.
- Demonstrate efforts to improve the quality of life for all its citizens with respect to its environment.
  - Pollution control
  - Reclamation
  - Government programs
  - Recycling
  - Water conservation
  - Carbon reducing measures

**Other Criteria to consider:**

Both communities may:

- Be of similar population size.
- Share historical significance/ties, ethnic and cultural composition.
- Have similar infrastructure, amenities, geographic location.
- Have the presence of community strengths which will facilitate cultural, civic, educational, technical, economic and business exchanges on a continuous basis.

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**TWINNING/PROJECT AGREEMENT**

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- Should exploration of twinning or project relationship areas prove successful, the formation of a formal twinning/project agreement is initiated.
- Signing of Twinning/Project Agreement by respective Mayors.

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**REVIEW**

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- Annual discussions of the twinning or project relationship will form a basis for a formal review of the agreement within five years of the signing date (events may require an earlier review).