

COUNCIL – DECEMBER 14, 2010

CITY DONATION TO THE HAIFA FOUNDATION EMERGENCY APPEAL

Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan donate \$10,000.00 to the Haifa Foundation Emergency Appeal;
2. That the City of Vaughan's Donation letter request that the City's donation be used towards specific items of need on their list; and
3. That the donation be absorbed through the Council Corporate Budget.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

In 2010 the Council Corporate Budget has already absorbed a donation of \$10,000 to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund and \$10,000 to the Pakistan Flood Relief. It is anticipated that this donation of \$10,000 can also be absorbed by the Council Corporate Budget.

Communications Plan

If the recommendation is approved, Corporate Communications will issue a Media Release.

Purpose

To donate \$10,000 to the Haifa Foundation Emergency Appeal in response to the disastrous forest fires raging in Haifa and in support of the large Israeli community in Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

A disastrous forest fire has raged through the Carmel Forest, south of Haifa. The damage is still being assessed, but to date 12,500 acres have been lost, 17,000 people have been evacuated, 15 settlements and towns have been evacuated, and the estimated damage is at \$1 billion.

The Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation is appealing for help to support the City of Haifa during this emergency (Attachment 1). Funds are being raised to purchase hygiene kits, bedding, communication equipment, fire retardant uniforms and helmets, and security vehicles. The Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation provided a list of specific items needed as part of the emergency relief effort (Attachment 2). The City's donation letter can specify exactly which items we would like the donation to go towards.

The City of Vaughan does have a history of donating funds for international disasters. Past donations include \$5,000 to the Canadian Red Cross China Earthquake (2008), \$10,000 to the Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund (2009), \$10,000 to the Filipino Canadian Association Philippines Relief Fund (2009), \$10,000 to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund (2010) and \$10,000 to the Humanity First Pakistan Flood Relief (2010). In addition, the City of Vaughan has an International Partnership Program with the City of Ramla, Israel.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

In response to the Haifa Foundation Emergency Appeal, Councillor Racco recommends that a \$10,000 donation be donated to the Haifa Foundation Emergency Appeal through the Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation.

Attachments

1. Email Request from the Haifa Foundation
2. List of Emergency Relief Needs, as provided by the Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation

Report prepared by:

Cindy Furfaro-Benning, Council Executive Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yeung Racco
Councillor, Ward 4 (Thornhill/Concord)

Furfaro, Cindy

From: Lisa Plant [lisaplant.haifafoundation@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, December 10, 2010 11:01 AM

Subject: CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR THE HAIFA FOUNDATION - EMERGENCY APPEAL

THE CANADIAN COMMITTEE FOR THE HAIFA FOUNDATION

Toby Feldberg
Chairman

Lisa Plant
Executive Director

10660 Yonge Street PO Box 30528 Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 2H0

Office: 647 430 7743 Cell: 416 409 4381

Email: lisaplant.haifafoundation@gmail.com

www.haifa-foundation.org



Friday, December 10, 2010

Dear Friends,

As a result of the disastrous forest fire that has raged through the Carmel Forest south of Haifa, there is much need and our community is responding. Firefighters gained control over the wildfire in the Carmel on Sunday, after four days of battling the flames that caused the deaths of 42 people, including Haifa's deputy police chief, Ahuva Tomer. 17,000 people have been evacuated from nearby settlements, including students and teachers from the University Of Haifa. 12,500 acres have been lost, 5 million trees burnt, 15 settlements and towns have been evacuated. The damage is only now starting to be assessed, but it is estimated to be at a billion dollars.

Our Committee is asking you to help support the City Of Haifa during this emergency. Our first concern is for the safety of all the citizens of Haifa and the surrounding neighbourhoods. We have been asked by the City of Haifa to raise funds to buy hygiene kits for thousands of the evacuated families, bedding, communication equipment, fire retardant uniforms and helmets for an additional 100 fire fighters, and security vehicles. These items and the costs associated with them are all listed on our website.

Contributions will be also needed to rehabilitate thousands of acres of forest that have been lost.

The Israel Fire Departments were found to be woefully lacking in manpower, equipment and even the vital chemical suppressants for blocking the fire from spreading. For the first time, an Israeli Prime Minister had to appeal for foreign assistance to cope with the national disaster. The Haifa Foundation has also been called upon to assist in raising funds to build a larger and more efficient fire truck brigade, so that the Fire Department in Haifa can combat future emergencies more effectively.

We appeal to all our friends who support our beautiful city of Haifa to send any donations to this emergency fund. Please forward this email to all of your friends/contacts. All donations are 100% tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation is a registered Canadian charity.

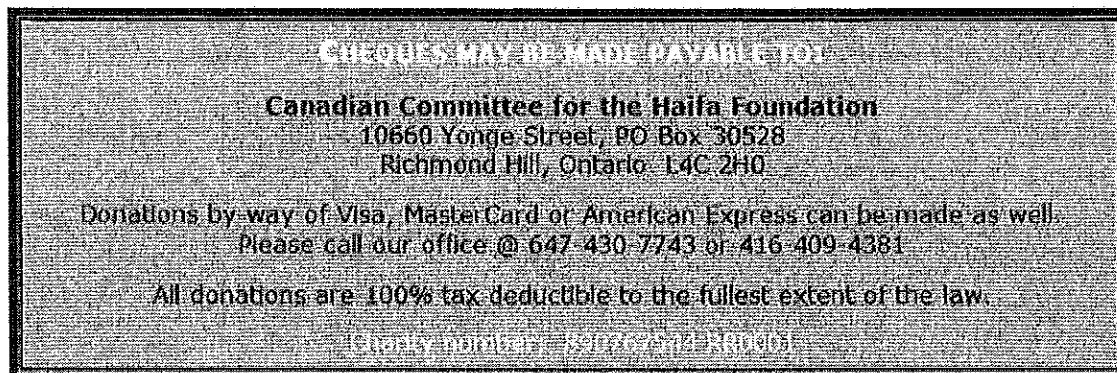
Our mission is to advance educational, cultural, community and environmental support in Haifa, Israel.

Please visit www.haifa-foundation.org for additional information and details about our Foundation.

Thank you in advance. On behalf of the city of Haifa, we sincerely appreciate your support in this hour of need.

Toby Feldberg
Chairman

Lisa Plant
Executive Director



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The Canadian Committee For The Haifa Foundation
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FOR THE HAIFA FIRE BRIGADE:

2 water tankers at the cost of \$420,000 each
5 fire engine at \$ 450,000 each
4 front wheel drive vehicles at \$280,000 each
400 new water hoses at \$10,000
400 waterspouts at \$10,000
125 new firefighters vests at \$650 each= \$81,250

FOR THE CITY OF HAIFA:

Renovation of central crisis management control center: \$ 1,800,000
5 additional security vehicles at: \$ 40,000 each
Computerized communication system: \$ 40,000
3 mobile communication systems at : \$15,000 each
20 laptops for emergency area control at \$1,500 each

Establishing a memorial park at Chof Hacarmel promenade: \$ 2.5 million

CHEQUES MAY BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation

10660 Yonge Street, PO Box 30528
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 2H0

Donations by way of Visa, MasterCard or American Express can be made as well.
Please call our office @ 647-430-7743 or 416-409-4381.

All donations are 100% tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Charity number: 890667544 RR0001