

## **COUNCIL MEETING – APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**

### **EARTHQUAKE CATASTROPHE IN ITALY**

#### **Recommendation**

Mayor Linda D. Jackson recommends:

1. THAT Mayor and Members of Council, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Vaughan, express their condolences to the Italian community and the people of Italy on the recent earthquake disaster. The earthquake disaster has caused major catastrophe to the lives of Italian citizens;
2. THAT we encourage the citizens of Vaughan to reach out and extend their compassion through donations or financial assistance in helping the earthquake victims in Italy;
3. THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Italian Consulate General of Italy in Toronto, the Ambassador of Italy to Canada, the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister of Canada.

#### **Economic Impact**

Not applicable.

#### **Communications Plan**

The City of Vaughan Corporate Communications Department will issue a News Release regarding the recommendation.

#### **Purpose**

To provide recognition of the relationship between the City of Vaughan and Italy. The relationship has been established through several International Partnership Agreements. The City of Vaughan and its citizens should pay tribute to those who have lost their lives and loved ones as a result of the earthquake catastrophe. We should offer support and assistance to those in need.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

The 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck on April 6, 2009 at 3:32 am. The earthquake's epicentre was directly below the medieval town of L'Aquila, the historic capital of Italy's Abruzzi region. L'Aquila is approximately 120 kms northeast of the capital of Rome, where tremors were also experienced. The earthquake has caused the death of 260 people and thousands of others homeless. The death toll continues to rise.

Italy's Culture Ministry has reported that the earthquake has damaged historic churches and other heritage sites. There have been four Roman/Renaissance churches and a 16<sup>th</sup> century castle which have all been partially destroyed. The extensive damage to physical infrastructure continues to affect the area. Accurate information regarding the affected population and prevailing needs of the affected area, remain difficult to obtain.

The City of Vaughan has International Partnership Agreements with three cities in Italy, including Delia, Lanciano and Sora. Delegations from all three cities were received by the City of Vaughan in 2008.

The Canadian Red Cross is currently assessing the situation in Italy. Individuals who wish to donate to the earthquake relief efforts can contact the Italian Red Cross at [www.cri.it/donazioni](http://www.cri.it/donazioni).

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2008**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

**Regional Implications**

Not applicable.

**Conclusion**

It is important for our City to offer assistance and support to the people suffering in Italy. The people need our support.

**Attachments**

None.

**Report prepared by:**

Ann Coletta, Office of the Mayor

Respectfully submitted,

Linda D. Jackson  
Mayor