

**CITY DONATION TO THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE FUND**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Finance and City Treasurer, in consultation with the City Clerk, recommends:

1. That Council provide direction to staff regarding a City of Vaughan donation to the Haiti Earthquake Fund

**Contribution to Sustainability**

Not applicable

**Economic Impact**

The 2010 Operating Budget includes available budget of \$5,000 for Sponsorships in the Clerks Department – Council Corporate account # 7447.

**Communications Plan**

Should Council approve a donation, a media release may be provided at that time.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of donations made by the City of Vaughan to support international disasters in 2008 and 2009 and to receive direction regarding a financial donation to the Haiti Earthquake Fund.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7 earthquake occurred near the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. At the Special Council Meeting of January 20, 2010, Council referred the issue of a potential donation to the Haiti Earthquake Fund by the City of Vaughan to staff for a report.

The City of Vaughan currently does not have a corporate policy regarding charitable donations. Council has, however, approved donations for international disasters in the past. The donations for international disasters approved during 2008 and 2009 are as follows:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Actuals</u>
Cdn. Red Cross China Earthquake	12/29/2008	\$5,000.00

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Actuals</u>
Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund	4/30/2009	\$10,000.00
Donation to Filipino-Can Association	10/27/2009	\$10,000.00

In 2009, City of Vaughan staff canvassed a number of GTA municipalities to determine policies or practices regarding donations for international disasters. Of the 5 selected (City of Brampton, City of Toronto, Town of Markham, Town of Richmond Hill and the Region of York), only the City of Toronto has a policy. The remaining four have, in the past, made donations on the basis of situations arising, and merit of each. At the time of writing this report, none of these five GTA municipalities have issued press releases confirming a Council approved municipal donation to the Haiti Earthquake Fund.

Attached are copies of 2 letters which Mayor Jackson has sent to Prime Minister Harper and Governor General Jean on behalf of the City of Vaughan. In her letter, the Mayor indicates that the City of Vaughan is encouraging its residents to donate to the Canadian Red Cross and World Vision. The City of Vaughan website posted a press release on January 15, 2010, which provides the public with contact information for making donations to the Canadian Red Cross and World Vision.

Should Council determine that the City of Vaughan wishes to provide financial relief to the Haiti Earthquake Fund, the available annual budget is \$5,000 in the Clerks – Council Corporate account. Donations in excess of \$5,000 would impact (reduce) funds available for other purposes in the remaining budget.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

Not applicable

#### **Regional Implications**

Not applicable

#### **Conclusion**

The City of Vaughan has provided donations previously to international disasters, although municipalities in Ontario are not required to do so. Should Council wish to donate to the Haiti Earthquake Fund, \$5,000 is available in the Clerks Dept. – Council Corporate 2010 Operating Budget.

#### **Attachments**

1. Letter from Mayor Jackson to Prime Minister Stephen Harper
2. Letter from Mayor Jackson to Governor General Michaëlle Jean

#### **Report prepared by:**

Barb Cribbett, Commissioner of Finance and City Treasurer, ext. 8475

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Cribbett  
Commissioner of Finance and City Treasurer

# Linda D. Jackson



January 19, 2010

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

On behalf of the City of Vaughan and Members of Council, I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the prompt assistance provided by the Government of Canada following the devastating earthquake that hit the Republic of Haiti on January 12.

Canada has long been recognized as a leader in worldwide humanitarian relief. Undoubtedly, the quick response by the Government of Canada and its citizens will play a major role in assisting those affected by this crisis, both at home and abroad. The substantial loss of life and the catastrophic nature of this event has had a profound effect on Canadians.

In response to this tragedy, the City of Vaughan is actively encouraging its citizens to support emergency relief efforts by donating to the Canadian Red Cross and World Vision.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Jackson  
Mayor  
City of Vaughan

Cc: Members of Council, City of Vaughan  
Cc: City Manager Clayton Harris



# Linda D. Jackson



January 19, 2010

Her Excellency  
The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M, C.D.  
Governor General of Canada  
Rideau Hall  
1 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A1

Dear Governor General:

On behalf of the City of Vaughan and Members of Council, I am writing to express my heartfelt condolences following the devastating earthquake to hit the Republic of Haiti on January 12.

Your close connection to the people of this island nation is well-known, and the leadership you have demonstrated on behalf of Canadians is greatly appreciated. I want to express my deepest concerns to everyone affected by this catastrophic event, including the many Haitians who now call Canada their home.

The news coverage of this tragedy has had a profound effect on our citizens, and the effort required to rebuild lives and communities will be substantial. The City of Vaughan is actively encouraging its residents to support emergency relief efforts by donating to the Canadian Red Cross and World Vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda D. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Linda D. Jackson  
Mayor  
City of Vaughan

Cc: Members of Council, City of Vaughan  
Cc: City Manager Clayton Harris

