

March 16, 2011

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**Council supports Twinning Society relief effort for Japan**

At its March 15 meeting, Council unanimously supported a request from the Campbell River Twinning Society to release \$5,000 from the City's sister city fund to spearhead a Campbell River community relief effort for victims of the disaster in Japan.

The money from the City's Ishikari Reserve Fund – money dedicated to efforts that strengthen the connection with our sister city – will be sent directly to Ishikari, for distribution in Japan as Campbell River's sister city deems appropriate. *"They are in a better position to direct funds to the area of greatest need,"* explained Councillor Andy Adams, who is also a director with the Twinning Society.

*"The Twinning Society appreciates Council's support to send funds to our sister city Ishikari,"* Adams said. *"By making a direct contribution, we are a collaborative partner in the relief effort – and this reinforces the already strong bond between Campbell River and Ishikari."*

Adams also hopes the City's show of support will inspire local residents to assist people in Japan by giving generously to relief efforts. The Campbell River Twinning Society welcomes donations that would be added to the \$5,000 that will be sent directly to Ishikari, Japan. Alternatively, people can make donations to organizations such as the Canadian Red Cross, The Humanitarian Coalition, Oxfam and Save the Children Canada.

*"The Campbell River Twinning Society sends out its heartfelt sympathies to our friends in Japan and in the City of Ishikari, whose family and friends may have been affected in the terrible natural disaster of March 11, 2011,"* reads a statement on the Twinning Society's website. *"We are relieved to report that our Campbell River students studying in Ishikari are safe and unaffected by the earthquake and tsunami, and that immediate family members of our incoming Ishikari Japanese exchange students are also fine."*

The Twinning Society has cancelled the Young Ambassadors visit to Japan that had been scheduled for later this month. *"After careful consideration of the potential risks involved, and in consultation with the Twinning Society in Ishikari, the Campbell River Twinning Society executive determined that it was prudent to cancel the trip at this time, especially considering the planned flights were routed through Tokyo, where there are numerous risks,"* explained Councillor Adams.

For more information about the Campbell River Twinning Society, go to [www.twinningcr.bc.ca](http://www.twinningcr.bc.ca).

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