



Date: 12/11/2015

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board
And To: Janis Bell, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services
Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Nov13_2015
File: 6720-01

Short Summary:

A Late Item – Chinese Martial Arts Performances

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

The Cariboo Regional District has been approached with the opportunity to host elite martial arts practitioners from the Shaolin Epo Wushu College of Dengfeng City, Henan Province, China, to deliver cultural performances in the region in February 2016. It is proposed that these performances will take place in the District of 100 Mile House, City of Williams Lake, City of Quesnel, and the City of Prince George.

The Chinese Consulate has tentatively agreed to cover the international travel costs associated with bringing this group to Vancouver. The event coordinator has asked for support in identifying funding that can cover the group's domestic travel and hospitality costs. This includes such expenses as transportation, accommodations, meals, facility rentals and a full-time translator. Total domestic travel and hospitality costs are estimated at \$65,000.

At the request of the Chair, the CRD's Regional Economic/Community Development Officer and Grant Writer have been working to determine appropriate grants which could cover these costs. Some grants have been identified, however, further matching funds are still required. It is requested that further CRD staff time be dedicated to identifying funds and providing capacity support for the coordination and delivery of these cultural events.

The Regional Economic/Community Development Officer will work in coordination with municipal staff and other key stakeholders including regional and sub-regional arts councils in an effort to successfully deliver these events in 2016.

Attachments:

Chinese Martial Arts Troupe to Northern BC

Financial Implications:

At present, the CRD has not approved any financial contributions towards these proposed events.

Policy Implications:

None.

CAO Comments:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Options:

1) Endorse the recommendation, 2) Receipt and other action, 3) Defer.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated November 12, 2015, regarding the delivery of Chinese martial arts performances in the region, be received. Further, that support in-principle be provided for the dedication of further staff time to identify grant funding and provide capacity support in the coordination and delivery of these cultural events.

**Chinese Martial Arts Troupe (to Tour Northern BC, Canada
Mid/Late February, 2016**



E Po Chinese Marshal Arts performed in White Horse, Yukong.



E PO Chinese Martial Arts at the Annual Chinatown Chinese New Year Parade in Vancouver





Photo Courtesy: Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver

Objectives

To heighten the awareness in Northern BC communities of the tangible social and economic benefits brought about by intercultural understanding through high profile events such as proposed.

Summary

By popular demand, a 20-member elite troupe from Dengfeng Shaolin Epo Martial Art (Kongfu) College, Henan Province, China, is returning to Canada, this time to Northern BC, e.g tentatively including Prince George, Williams Lake and Quesnel in the latter part of January 2016 to coincide with Chinese New Year which falls on February 8, 2016.

At the invitation of Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver and the Yukon-China Community Association, a similar group from Dengfeng Shaolin Epo Martial Art College visited Vancouver and White Horse to help celebrate Chinese New Year in 2014. This group also participated in the annual Chinatown Chinese Year Parade, which drew over 100,000 people from all over the world. The group was hit during the entire visit and their two shows in Whitehorse saw full houses with standing room only.

The name Shaolin Wushu, also known as Shaolin Kung Fu (or Shaolin Quan), refers to the style of martial arts first adopted more than 1,500 years ago by Zen Buddhist monks at the temple of Shaolin at Songshan (or Majestic Song Mountain) in Henan Province, central China. Born from necessity, as a way for the monks to protect their monastery and its extensive grounds from marauders at that time, it has since gone on to become the dominant school of kung fu, with an extensive repertoire of both barehanded and weapon styles of engagement. Monastic life at Shaolin still involves a rigorous regime combining several hours a day of martial arts practice ("quan") with regular periods of religious study ("chan"), as well as the routine domestic and administrative chores of communal life.

Established in 1977, E Po is the first professional martial arts school since the founding of the People's Republic of China. It has won numerous awards both nationally and internationally. The teachers and students from this school have toured more than 80 countries all over the world with over 3,000 performances. They are frequent performers at various leading China martial arts festival. They have even performed for world leaders at Beijing's "bird's nest" stadium at APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in 2014 and on other occasions. The well-known Chinese film actor, film producer, martial artist, and wushu champion Jet Li is from the same school.

The returning Shaolin Kungfu Masters are very high calibre. Their performance will demonstrate skills of techniques, including pictographic animal boxing, knife and whip group boxing, variations of hard qigong (involving pikes and steel nails), and use of the 18 weapons developed by Shaolin monks over the years.

This initiative is part of Canada-China Year of Culture celebrations and well supported by Ministry of Culture, People's Republic of China, Ministry of Culture of Henan Province and Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver.

Background

In November 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper made his third visit to China. During the trip, the leaders of the two countries created a new momentum in furthering bilateral relations and announced an extensive list of follow-up co-operations including the designation of 2015-2016 as the Year of People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges between China and Canada.

This is the first time that culture exchange has been designated as the co-operation theme of a year between the two countries, and is also China's first "Year of Culture" in North America. 2015 also celebrates the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Canada and the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

Canada – China Year of Culture was launched in Vancouver in April 2015. During the two-year-long initiative, China will organize or participate in major events across Canada where 26 large

projects with over 100 presentations have been planned. The cultural activities consist of film screenings, sport and literary events, performing arts shows, and cultural exchanges between educational institutions, twinning provinces and sister cities. The public in Canada will have an opportunity to enjoy outstanding artworks reflecting modern China's artistry and cultural development without leaving home. This initiative will definitely further promote mutual understanding in culture, and will strengthen strategic partners between Canada and China.

Time/Venue

The tour is tentatively scheduled mid/late January, before Chinese New Year, which falls on February 8, in 2016. One show for each city. The troupe will stay 2 nights for each stop.

Tentative Schedule

Day 1 & 2	Beijing to Vancouver Vancouver to Prince George
Day 3 & 4	Prince George
Day 5 & 6	Quesnel
Day 7 & 8	Williams Lake
Day 9	Williams Lake 100 Mile House (?)
Day 10/Day 11	Prince George – Vancouver - Beijing

Proposed Venue

- **Prince George**
The Prince George Civic Centre (PGCC) (TBC)
- **Williams Lake**
The Gibraltar Room (TBC)
Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex
525 Proctor St, Williams Lake, BC V2G 4J1
- **Quesnel**
To be confirmed
- **100 Mile House**
To be confirmed

Estimated budget:

Prince George: \$25,000 - \$30,000

Williams Lake: \$20,000

Quesnel: \$20,000

100 Mile House: \$20,000

Including such expenses as, but not limited to, roundtrip from Vancouver to Prince George, local transportation between each city, venue and facility rentals, accommodations, promotion, food and consulting fee for project coordination. The Chinese delegation will cover their international travel and visa fees.

Prepared by:

Eileen Lao
Principal
Symarom Communications
Tel: 778-998-4516; 778-997-8283
Email: symarom@gmail.com