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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 10/6/2016 6:29:51 PM
Subject: Canada-Taiwan Bilateral Relations

Dear Mayor and Council,

The City of Vancouver has a flag policy that applies to all flags flown by the City of Vancouver: http://former.vancouver.ca/policy_pdf/AG01301.pdf

As stated in the flag policy, the City will fly the flags of other sovereign nations, non-profit societies and other local organizations upon request. Flags raised to recognise national days remain on the pole up until sunset on the day of the official national day unless there is a scheduling conflict with another flag raising.

Flag raising ceremonies are externally organized events, with the City providing access to the community flag pole. It is up to the requesting organization to make arrangements for their event, including sending out invitations.

The City's policy to only fly the flags of other sovereign nations is in line with federal and provincial policies, as well as with other major Canadian cities.

At this point the City has not received an official request to raise the national flag of Taiwan. The information below can be used if you're asked about the City's policy related to this matter and represents how the City will respond if a request is received.

With respect to the recognition of Taiwan in bilateral relations, the Government of Canada does not recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state. Without official recognition at the level of the federal government, the decision to fly the national flag of Taiwan is outside of the City's authority as a municipality. If the Government of Canada changes their policy with respect to Taiwan, future requests to fly their national flag could be approved.

Canada-Taiwan Bilateral Relations

The Government of Canada operates the Canadian Office of Trade in Taipei. On the website for the trade office it states that, "Under Canada's One China policy, Canada does not recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state and does not maintain official, government-to-government relations with Taipei" (Source: http://www.canada.org.tw/taiwan/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/fs-taiwan-fd.aspx?lang=eng). Under the heading "Multilateral Cooperation," the website states that "Canada generally supports Taiwan's full participation in international organizations that do not require statehood as a prerequisite for membership, and meaningful participation in those that do when a practical imperative exists" (Source: http://www.canada.org.tw/taiwan/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/bilateral_relations.aspx?lang=eng).

The Government of British Columbia has not published any easily searchable information on their bilateral relations with Taiwan. However, the BC Office of Protocol publishes a list of recognized National Days for the countries in the Consular Corps of B.C., which includes the National Day of the People's Republic of China on October 1, but does not list a national day for Taiwan (Source: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/office-of-the-premier/intergovernmental-relations-secretariat/protocol/consular-corps/national-days>.)

Best
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