

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2015
FROM:	ART ZUIDEMA, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT:	CANADA CARIBBEAN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CARILED)

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Manager, the following report on the Canada Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED) **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Board of Control: January 27, 2010: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED) Program – FCM Mission to Ukraine
 Finance and Administration Committee: December 15, 2010; March 30, 2011; June 15, 2011; November 16, 2011: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program – FCM Mission to Ukraine
 Finance and Administrative Services Committee: July 16, 2012: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program; Canada Caribbean Local Economic Development, November 5, 2012
 Corporate Services Committee March 19, 2013, September 24, 2013: Canada Caribbean Local Economic Development. March 19, 2013: Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development Program.

BACKGROUND

As part of London’s commitment to the federally funded FCM International Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED) program on local economic development capacity building, Civic Administration will be participating in a mission to Belize. Sean Galloway, Manager, Urban Design and GIS, and Heather McNeely, Senior Planner, of the Planning Services will travel in April 8 – 26, 2015 to provide technical advice to support the drafting of a downtown improvement strategy in Belize City and the twin towns of San Ignacio and Santa Elena. In Belize, they will review the existing urban development master plan to identify priority areas that can then be incorporated into a short to medium term action plan. In the smaller communities of San Ignacio/Santa Elena, they will assist in preparing a strategy to develop the core area that is compatible with existing municipal developments and draft local economic development strategic plan.

The City of London is one of a number of Canadian municipalities to serve as models of expertise in local economic development (LED) and as resources for deployment of their expertise in LED in the CARILED program.

London hosted a senior delegation from the Caribbean, June 2-6th, 2014 which was in town to learn from London’s experiences of local economic development. As well, there have been a number of outgoing missions. Councillor Usher, a member of FCM’s Standing Committee on International Relations participated in the Inaugural Local Governance Symposium 2013, meetings organized by the Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED) in both Belize and Jamaica, in September-October 2013. In 2014, Sarah Merritt, of the Old East Village Business Improvement Area participated in a CARILED mission to discuss local economic development at the community level, while consultant Kadie Ward of Build Strong Cities, and volunteer Hans Schreff of London Hydro, led consultations in Belize City, Belize. The consultations led to the submission of a draft business plan including strategies for branding and signage followed by the re-opening of the Belize Telecommunications Park in February 2014. Andrea Halwa, Executive Director of the London Arts Council, provided technical assistance to develop a tourism and heritage plan for the proposed tourism and heritage sites at the Princes Town Regional Corporation, Trinidad. Andrea was supported extensively in this work by Robin Armistead, Manager of Culture and Municipal Policy, City of London Culture Office.

The CARILED program is a six-year initiative running until 2018. The program currently operates in 24 communities in seven Caribbean countries to develop models of LED that can be shared throughout the Region. It will eventually support nearly 50 local governments and agencies in their

local economic development initiatives targeting more than 500 small and medium sized enterprises (MSME) throughout the Caribbean. CARILED is a partnership with the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers (CFLGM), the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA) and the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CFLG). The program is intended to stimulate local economic development through the growth of the micro, small and medium size enterprise (MSME) sub-sector and the strengthening of competencies and capacities in local governments or local agencies of central government in several Caribbean countries.

London began its involvement in FCM's international programs in 2010 with its involvement in the Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED) program with Ukrainian communities. The peer-to-peer approach not only builds capacities of communities overseas but it also provides valuable professional development opportunities and forges new business and trade connections around the world. London volunteers also gain access to innovative policy research and best practices, becoming more responsive to the needs of their own citizens.

All expenses for the volunteers in the CARILED program are covered through the FCM program.

This report has been prepared in consultation with Sean Galloway and Heather McNeely of the Planning Services, and Robin Armistead of the Culture Office.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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