

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2012
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	CANADA CARIBBEAN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, the engagement of the City of London in the Canada Caribbean Local Economic Development Program **BE SUPPORTED.**

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

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

BACKGROUND

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) International has received approval from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to receive funding for a new Caribbean Local Economic Development Program (CARILED).

The City of London has been an active participant in FCM's Canada Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development program, a five year program initiated in 2010.

From 2012 to 2018, CARILED will 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. It 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). CARILED 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 (where no local government exists) in several Caribbean countries.

FCM is looking for a pool of 15-20 Canadian municipalities to serve as models of expertise in local economic development (LED) and resource for deployment of their expertise in LED into the CARILED programming in three consecutive but overlapping phases:

Phase 1 - Start up in Selected Countries (2012-2014)

Phase 2 - Roll out in Selected Countries (2014-2016)

Phase 3 – Expansion in the Region (2016-2018)

The program will focus initially on seven countries: Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago. These initiatives will generate lessons, approaches, and practices to create new tools and models that will be disseminated throughout the region.

CARILED is using a municipal team approach for the delivery of technical assistance to local-level projects in the 7 start-up countries. Anchored by a municipality, the team will be supplemented with experts from the private sector, other Canadian and/or Commonwealth local governments as well as local consultants and staff from FCM and partner organizations. The specific contributions of a participating municipality include sourcing municipal practitioners from staff or council for missions to the Caribbean (approximately 3 two week missions a year over a period of approximately two years per practitioner); hosting delegations from the Caribbean; participating in workshops/training

sessions on project-related topics; coordinating delivery of programming by local resource providers; and ongoing technical advice on related project initiatives.

According to the terms of participation, selected municipalities must be willing to source from their staff or council, the required experts who will participate in the project on a volunteer basis under an official mandate from their municipality; and that they must be willing to engage their own community in project activities, as appropriate. As with the MLED Ukraine program, the City of London's participation in the CARILED program will be subject to timing and availability of Civic and LEDC staff and Council members. In accordance with normal program guidelines for such missions, all participant travel expenses will be paid by FCM.

London has the expertise required of FCM to participate in the MLED project which requires that partner municipalities meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- ***The municipality should have recently undergone a strategic review of economic priorities based on a consultative process.*** Following an economic summit in 2009, the London Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) has developed a set of short and long term priorities, including the creation of a \$55M economic development fund, that were approved by London City Council in early 2010.
- ***The municipality must have a range of local economic development mechanisms and tools (business retention/attraction programs, support for new business development, policy reforms etc.) that it is willing to present to the Caribbean partners.*** Through our participation in the Canada-Ukraine MLED, Civic Administration and staff of the LEDC have developed a number of presentations on a variety of subjects of interest to the Ukrainian municipalities, as well as tours of businesses, and Business Improvement Areas. These materials will form the basis of anything that we develop for Caribbean municipalities.
- ***Diversification of its main economic base from a single industry or resource into a multi-sector arrangement.*** London has practical experience to share on growing new economic clusters and in diversifying its economy.
- ***Participation in a broader regional approach to economic development or strategic alliance.*** London is a leader in Southwest Ontario and has been active in the Southwest Economic Alliance (SWEA) since 2005.
- ***Experience in working with international delegates.*** Councillor Harold Usher is a member of FCM's Standing Committee on International Relations. London has participated in the current program with Ukraine, as well as past FCM missions to Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Haiti. We regularly host delegates from a variety of international communities.

Nearly 5,000 residents living in London claim Caribbean heritage, the vast majority of whom have immigrated within the last generation. London's Caribbean associations include Barbadian Canadian and Friends Association of London & District; the Caribbean Students' Organization (Western University); and Helping Hands of Antigua and Barbuda.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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