



Corporate *NO: R009*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: January 21, 2002*

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	January 14, 2002
FROM:	City Manager	FILE:	0390
SUBJECT:	Conference Attendance		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the City Manager to attend:

- .1 The International City Managers' Association's Best Practices Symposium in Sydney, Australia during 10th – 11th May 2002, and
- .2 The Annual Conference of the Local Government Managers of Australia in Sydney, during 12th to 15th May 2002.

BACKGROUND

The City Manager typically attends the following two conferences each year:

- .1 CAMA/FCM's Annual Conference held in a Canadian City.
- .2 International City Managers' Association's Annual Conference held in a U.S. City.

For 2002, the City Manager requests Council's approval to attend an International Congress and a Best Practices symposium being held jointly in Sydney, Australia, during 10 – 15th May 2002, in lieu of the above two conferences (i.e. CAMA/FCM and ICMA).

DISCUSSION

The topics, scope and the case studies of the proposed Congress and Symposiums offers a unique opportunity to discuss and learn about a wide range of relevant and applicable local government issues. The international setting and context of these discussions will likely contribute to new

ideas and innovative thinking. Experience would suggest that seeds of new thinking often come from interactions and discussions in new surroundings, with new perspectives and from having different experiences first hand. The City Manager will also attempt to arrange additional meetings with Australian local government officials to further learn from their experiences.

The cost of attending this conference and symposium is similar to that of attending a comparable conference in a U.S. City. For example, the cost of attending an ICMA Conference, or a City Planner's Conference or a City Engineer's Conference in 2001 was approximately CDN \$5,000 each. The cost of this conference and symposium in Sydney is estimated at CDN \$5,600 including registration, airfare, accommodation and per-diem. Furthermore, the City Manager's attendance at this conference will be in lieu of his attendance at other North American conferences he would normally attend, and thereby achieve some cost savings in the 2002 budget.

SUMMARY

Council's approval is requested for the City Manager to attend a conference and symposium in Sydney, Australia during 10 to 15th May 2002. This conference and symposium offers a rare but effective opportunity to discuss and experience new ideas and new thinking on a wide range of relevant local government issues from international perspectives.

The cost of this conference will be well within the 2002 budget, as attendance at this conference will be undertaken in lieu of other annual conferences the City Manager typically attends.

Umendra Mital, P. Eng.

City Manager

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