

**DATE:** May 28, 2023

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
cc. SLT-E

**FROM:** Raphael Costa, Director, Economic Development  
cc. Nick Spensieri, City Manager  
cc. Michael Genova, Chief, Communications and Economic Development  
cc. Office of Communications and Economic Development

**RE:** **Philippines Mission 2023 – Day 3**

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On Council direction, Economic Development is leading an economic and cultural mission to its partner, Baguio City, Philippines. The Council mission to the Philippines focuses on activities to achieve the following goals:

1. Enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with officials from Baguio to initiate negotiations for a renewed partnership; and
2. Consult with Philippine organizations while on the mission that can support a renewed partnership to position Baguio, Philippines as a gateway to the ASEAN region.

Staff are providing daily updates on activities.

### **Key Messages**

- Vaughan has a thriving and engaged Filipino community with more than 9,000 residents, many actively involved with the Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV).
- The City of Vaughan has had a formal partnership with Baguio City, Philippines since 1997.
- The Philippines is a strong candidate as a gateway to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economic territory: Baguio City can be a gateway economy partner with Vaughan.
- On Day 3 Regional Councillor Rosati led meetings with:
  - The former President and Founder of the University of Baguio
  - Staff from the Philippine Military Academy
  - The Baguio Smart City Centre
- Day 3 saw the delegation review several cultural assets including:
  - Local art galleries
  - The Baguio Botanical Garden and Sister City Monuments

### **Day 3 Meetings**

***On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the delegation met with the former President and Founder of the University of Baguio.***

The University of Baguio has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NiagaraU in Vaughan. The Delegation is meeting University staff on Tuesday, May 30.

***The Philippine Military Academy is based in Baguio. It is a key educational institution for the Philippine military and other industries.***

The Academy produces more than 300 graduates per year. Graduates have training in Science, Technology, and Mathematics.

***The Baguio Smart City Centre is based in the City's convention centre. It is the result of an investment from the national government.***

Baguio is in the first phase of a five-phase rollout that is focused on a connected streets strategy. Solutions will include:

- Video Management
- Smart Lighting
- Connected EV Charging Stations
- Remote Parking Metering
- Parking Assistance
- Automatic watering of plants
- Public Wi-Fi
- Environmental Monitoring Stations
- Connected Waste Containers
- Traffic Flow Management

***The Delegation was given tours of cultural assets on Sunday, May 28.***

Along with visiting local art galleries, staff visited the Vaughan sister-city monument in the City's Botanical Gardens.

## **Look Ahead**

***On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the delegation will meet with Baguio City Council and Mayor.***

This includes presenting the first step in modernizing the Vaughan-Baguio partnership.

***Corporate and Strategic Communications will provide social media content as appropriate.***

For more information, please contact Raphael Costa at [Raphael.Costa@vaughan.ca](mailto:Raphael.Costa@vaughan.ca).