

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2023

Item 6, Report No. 41, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 17, 2023.

6. PHILIPPINES MISSION 2023 - FINAL REPORT

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated October 11, 2023:

Recommendations

1. THAT Council receive this update on the Philippines Mission 2023.

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PHILIPPINES MISSION 2023 - FINAL REPORT

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

On Council direction, the Economic Development department organized an economic and cultural mission to Baguio City, Philippines, in May 2023. This report provides a mission summary.

Report Highlights

- In December 2022, Council directed staff to conduct an economic and cultural mission to Baguio City in 2023.
- Local and Regional Councillor Gino Rosati took part in a mission to Manila and Baguio City in May 2023.
- The May 2023 mission:
 - Renewed relations with Baguio City;
 - Advanced trade and economic relationships to explore opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region through the Philippines, with Canada's Trade Commissioners and Embassy in the Philippines, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham), the City of Manila, the Philippines Commission of Higher Education, and the University of Baguio; and
 - Solidified a University of Baguio-Niagara University partnership to conduct student exchanges and best practices learnings.

Report Highlights continued

- Opportunities that staff are pursuing on because of the mission include:
 - Trade education activities with CanCham and the Canadian Trade Commissioners;
 - Future trade and investment activities, including inbound missions;
 - An inbound mission from Baguio City; and
 - Finalizing a renewed Baguio City-Vaughan partnership consistent with the 2019 [Cultural and Economic Partnerships Policy 02.C.01](#).

Recommendations

1. THAT Council receive this update on the Philippines Mission 2023.

Background

Since 1997, the City of Vaughan and Baguio City, Philippines, have been international partners.

Highlights of the longstanding partnership include:

- Mayor Lorna Jackson signed Vaughan's international partnership with Baguio City in 1997. Since that time four official delegations from Baguio have visited Vaughan;
- In 2017, Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua and Members of Council welcomed an eight-person delegation from Baguio City to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the agreement;
- In July 2022, Local and Regional Councillor Gino Rosati led a meeting with staff from Vaughan's Office of Communications and Economic Development, representatives from Niagara University's Vaughan campus, the Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV), members of the Philippine Higher Education community, and Consul General Orontes Castro to explore further partnership opportunities;
- In November 2022, Mayor Steven Del Duca and Council welcomed a delegation from Baguio City Hall, including Vice Mayor Fasutino Olowan and Councillor Fred Bagbagan of Baguio City, to mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning agreement between the two cities. This meeting and economic development technical briefing marked the first international delegation hosted by Mayor Del Duca and the 2022 to 2026 Council. The visiting delegation also extended an invitation to Council to visit the Philippines;
- Since 2004, the City has recognized Filipino Day annually in June to celebrate Philippine Independence Day;
- Vaughan Council has undertaken separate missions to Baguio, including in 2009 for its centennial celebration and the inauguration of the Global Garden, and in 2013, to celebrate the Flower Festival and meet with the Baguio Economic Development Authority; and

- Economic Development participated in a Philippine Economic Briefing in Toronto on July 13, 2023. The briefing was a partnership between the Canadian Trade Commissioners and the Philippine national trade authorities.

Baguio City is a growing city with strong institutional, educational, and hospitality clusters.

About Baguio City:

- Baguio City is located 250 kilometres north of Manila, in the province of Benguet. It has a population of more than 345,000.
- Baguio City is a major educational centre, home to seven universities and colleges.
- Baguio City is home to the national Philippines military academy.
- Baguio City has a large retail and hospitality industry.

Vaughan has an active and engaged Filipino community of approximately 10,000 residents, many actively involved with FCAV.

FCAV was established in 1990. It was instrumental in Vaughan signing an agreement with Baguio City in 1997. The objectives of the FCAV are:

- To promote community spirit among Filipinos.
- To help newly landed immigrants.
- To participate in civic and social events within the community.

Canadian-Philippine economic and trade activity has been on the rise in recent years with a free-trade agreement being negotiated.

- In 2021, Canada-Philippines bilateral merchandise trade totaled \$2.7 billion, up from \$2.1 billion in 2020.
- Canadian merchandise exports to the Philippines in 2021 amounted to \$1.3 billion, up from \$899.4 million in 2020.
- Top exports include meat, mineral ores, wood, cereals, and precious stones and metals. Increased exports of meat and wood.
- In 2021, Canadian merchandise imports from the Philippines were valued at \$1.4 billion, up slightly from \$1.2 billion in the previous year.
- Top imports from the Philippines include electronics, machinery, and scientific and precision instruments.
- Canada and the Philippines are [currently negotiating a free trade agreement in the context of the Canada-ASEAN FTA negotiation](#).
- Canadian direct investment in the Philippines in 2020 was approximately \$2.6 billion.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Member's Resolution: Cultural and Economic Development Mission – Baguio City Philippines](#), Committee of the Whole (2) Report, December 12, 2022.

[Cultural and Economic Partnerships](#), Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report, May 8, 2019.

Analysis and Options

From May 26-30, the five-day mission advanced: (1) the City of Vaughan's relationship with Baguio City and (2) relationships with organizations that can support Vaughan-Philippine economic and cultural opportunities.

The Council mission to the Philippines focused on activities to achieve the following goals:

1. 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 and Indo-Pacific region.

The Vaughan mission to the Philippines advanced political relations with Baguio City and Manila.

Staff met with officials from Baguio City and presented the updated City of Vaughan Cultural and Economic Partnerships Policy. A framework for a renewed partnership was discussed and Baguio City staff are reviewing its contents.

In addition, the Delegation met with representatives from the City of Manila. The assigned Manila representative was Councillor Numero Lim, who leads Economic Development and International Partnerships for the City. Manila expressed an interest in a partnership with the City of Vaughan through him.

Councillor Lim has indicated that his staff are reviewing the City of Vaughan's material to identify synergies to build a partnership.

Trade and economic networks were expanded in the Philippine. These allow the City of Vaughan to access opportunities in the ASEAN region through the Philippines, with Canada's Trade Commissioners and Embassy in the Philippines, CanCham, the City of Manila, the Philippines Commission of Higher Education, and the University of Baguio.

The Canadian [Indo-Pacific Strategy](#) is a net new and well-resourced federal initiative. Inclusive of the Philippines, through the ASEAN region, the federal government is resourcing international agencies to advance economic opportunities.

Vaughan Economic Development staff identified the Philippines as a gateway economy to the ASEAN region. As such, City staff are working with colleagues in the Philippines on an opportunity-by-opportunity basis to advance trade and investment opportunities.

The mission solidified a University of Baguio-Niagara University (NiagaraU) partnership to conduct exchanges, joint research, and best practices learnings that will advance the local economy.

In the summer 2022, a meeting between Economic Development, NiagaraU, and representatives from the Philippine Higher Education sector, including the University of Baguio (UBaguio), was coordinated by FCAV and Local and Regional Councillor Gino Rosati. This meeting resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between NiagaraU and UBaguio.

The MOU between UBaguio and NiagaraU is in effect until 2025. It outlines areas of academic cooperation, including student exchanges, staff and faculty exchanges, joint research, and projects that will advance the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Vaughan staff presented to UBaguio executives on the city and opportunities for university collaboration that will advance the local economy.

Staff across the two universities and City of Vaughan remain in contact and are exploring opportunities for cooperation.

Economic Development is exploring a variety of opportunities that emerged from the mission. These include:

- Trade education activities with CanCham and the Trade Commissioners;
- Future trade and investment activities including inbound missions;
- An inbound mission from Baguio City; and,
- Finalizing a renewed Baguio City-Vaughan partnership in line with the 2019 [Cultural and Economic Partnerships Policy 02.C.01](#).

Financial Impact

The Council-led mission to Baguio City and Manila in the Philippines had a total budget of up to \$40,000 for three Council members and two staff to participate. One member of Council and one staff person ultimately took part as delegates.

Mission costs were as follows:

Description	Amount
Airfare	\$5,293.55
Hotels	\$1,240.00
Ground Travel	\$382.02
Per Diem and Materials	\$528.52
Meeting Hosting and Logistics	\$1,892.27
Total	\$9,336.36*

*NB: all ground travel and meals while in Baguio City were provided by the local government as a courtesy to Vaughan as a partner city.

Operational Impact

Any operational impact resulting from Vaughan-Baguio-Philippines activities is within the services and mandate of the Economic Development department.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

The City of Vaughan is the only regional municipality with active engagement with the Philippines for cultural and economic purposes. The Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines noted that the Province of Ontario has not actively pursued investment or trade opportunities.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan has a longstanding partnership with Baguio City, Philippines. The 2023 Economic and Cultural mission further cemented this relationship. Through the mission, the City of Vaughan is pursuing various opportunities to work with trade and investment agencies in the Philippines. These opportunities will help the local community access the ASEAN and Indo-Pacific region opportunities.

For more information, please contact: Raphael Costa, Director, Economic Development.

Attachments

1. Philippines Mission 2023, Day 1 Memorandum, May 26, 2023
2. Philippines Mission 2023, Day 2 Memorandum, May 27, 2023
3. Philippines Mission 2023, Day 3 Memorandum, May 28, 2023
4. Philippines Mission 2023, Day 4 Memorandum, May 29, 2023
5. Philippines Mission 2023, Day 5 Memorandum, May 30, 2023

Prepared by

Raphael Costa, Director, Economic Development, extension 8891.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager



memorandum

DATE: May 26, 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 1**

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 1 Regional Councillor Rosati led meetings with:
 - the Embassy of Canada to the Philippines
 - the City of Manila
 - the Commission of Higher Education

Day 1 Meetings

Regional Councillor Rosati led a meeting with Ambassador David Hartman, Senior Canadian Trade Commissioners, and the FCAV. There is an increasing level of interest from Canada in the Philippines as the stepping stone for Canada into the ASEAN region.

Lessons learned:

- Four Canadian ministers, including Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, have visited the Philippines in the past 12 months. Economic Development focused on the exchange of talent is a key objective of these visits.
- Further details of Canada's ten-year Indo-Pacific Strategy, including specifics around \$2.3B of funding over the first five years, are expected in late June. Funding is expected to include: talent development investments; business development support; and support for green technology in the face of climate challenges in Southeast Asia.
- The Embassy in Manila has hosted delegations in the past year from Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan. Ontario has not engaged the Philippines with a mission.
- Manila is home to the fourth largest Canadian Embassy world-wide.

Next Steps:

- Vaughan staff will gain access to the inventory of 118 post-secondary partnerships between Canadian and Filipino schools to explore opportunities for talent exchanges.
- Ambassador Hartman is expecting to visit the Toronto region in October with a focus on talent development in the health industry. Staff will introduce him to the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct (VHCP) leadership to discuss health talent development.
- Staff will explore an opportunity for Ambassador Hartman to request that Council engage the Provincial Economic Development and Trade officials about the opportunities in the Philippines.
- Staff will work with emigration support officials in the Embassy on talent in: healthcare, construction, and supply chain/logistics.

The Delegation met with representatives from the City of Manila. The lead Manila-representative was Councillor Numero Lim. Councillor Lim leads Economic Development and International Partnerships. Through him, Manila expressed an interest in a partnership with the City of Vaughan.

Lessons Learned:

- The City of Manila has activated its iconic clock tower as a public art gallery with rotating exhibitions by local artists. All art on display was for sale.
- The delegation toured the City's Emergency Operations Centre. The state-of-the-art facility featured disaster mitigation technology including virology and weather monitoring.
- The current Mayor, Honey Lacuna, is ambitiously pursuing international partnerships.
- Manila is sending a delegation to the Toronto Region in July, 2023.

Next Steps:

- As part of the post-Philippine-mission report in September, staff will outline for Council's consideration, the opportunity to initiate an Economic and/or Cultural partnership with Manila.

The Commission for Higher Education (CHED) in the Philippines hosted the delegation in the afternoon. A series of medium- and long-term opportunities for talent attraction and exchanges exist.

Lessons Learned:

- The Philippines trains nurses that work in countries around the world. Yet, an obstacle in recognizing international accreditation remains in Canada.
- To help solve their nursing shortage, the Philippines are developing micro-credentials in healthcare administration and healthcare assistance. Transferring menial health tasks and administration to those with these accreditations will allow nurses to focus on patient care.
- CHED is developing an international nursing accreditation.

Next Steps:

- Staff have offered to connect Ambassador Hartman to the VHCP partners and the local Ontario Health Team (OHT) in the fall to gain international insight on behalf of CHED on the needs of international health employers.
- CHED may be invited to a future Government Relations committee meeting to discuss advocacy with the Province of Ontario to ease the burden for Filipino nurses who want to practice in the Province.

Look Ahead

On May 26th, the delegation will meet with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines and travel to Baguio City.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham) was established in 1989.

Membership is open to Canadian, Philippine, and other third-country corporations and individuals that have Canada-Philippines business interests. The membership includes large multinational corporations, small and medium business enterprises, and persons involved in a whole range of business activities including international trade, investment, and labour mobility.

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

For more information, please contact Raphael Costa at Raphael.Costa@vaughan.ca.

DATE: May 27, 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 2**

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 2 Regional Councillor Rosati led meetings with:
 - The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham)
- Day 2 was a travel day from Manila to Baguio

Day 2 Meetings

On May 26th, the delegation will meet with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines and travel to Baguio City.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (CanCham) was established in 1989.

Membership is open to Canadian, Philippine, and other third-country corporations and individuals that have Canada-Philippines business interests. The membership includes large multinational corporations, small and medium business enterprises, and persons involved in a whole range of business activities including international trade, investment, and labour mobility.

Lessons learned:

- CanCham has 150 members. 60% of which are Philippine companies.
- CanCham has three lines of business:
 - Networking events
 - Virtual business briefings on doing business in Canada and the Philippines
 - Advocacy
- CanCham is committed to bilateral economic activities
- The Philippines are rapidly opening to foreign business with a significant number of legislative changes in the past year to liberalize trade and allow for more foreign ownership.

Next Steps:

- Vaughan has offered to participate in a virtual briefing.
- CanCham is open to co-organizing a future business focused mission with Vaughan.

Look Ahead

On May 28th, the delegation will tour Baguio City and review its cultural and tourism assets.

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

For more information, please contact Raphael Costa at Raphael.Costa@vaughan.ca.

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**

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 28th, 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 29th, 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.

DATE: May 29, 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 4**

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 4 Regional Councillor Rosati led meetings with:
 - Tourism Staff from Baguio City to brainstorm employee exchange programs
 - Baguio City Council to deliver the revised Letter of Intent. NB: the Mayor was called away on urgent business. Staff will move forward with outlining the renewed partnership
- Day 4 saw the delegation review several cultural assets and events including:
 - The annual flag decommissioning ceremony
 - A Baguio City Senior Leadership and Council joint meeting to review private proposals
 - A Council joint session
 - A ceremonial dinner for the City of Vaughan

Day 4 Meetings

On May 28th, the delegation discussed potential Tourism programs to be identified in the modernized partnership with Baguio City.

Baguio City has an existing Employee Exchange Program with Sister Cities. This program provides opportunities for staff growth by introducing best practices.

Economic Development (ED) believes there is an opportunity for a tourism staff exchange. ED will explore this opportunity as a pilot. Tourism staff in ED, for example, could co-organize a B2B exchange with staff exchange necessary in planning.

The Delegation delivered the revised letter of partnership to Baguio. Staff will work to present a revised partnership to Council.

Note that the Mayor of Baguio was called away on urgent matters. Staff will advance negotiations based on the 1997 agreement.

The Delegation observed various meetings and ceremonies

Look Ahead

On May 30th, the delegation will meet with the University of Baguio to explore exchanges with NiagaraU.

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

For more information, please contact Raphael Costa at Raphael.Costa@vaughan.ca.

memorandum

DATE: May 30, 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 5**

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 5 Regional Councillor Rosati led meetings with:
 - Mayor Benjamin Magalong
 - The University of Baguio to advance the NiagaraU agreement

Day 5 Meetings

Mayor Magalong met with the Delegation and discussed some of the major challenges facing Baguio.

In particular, Baguio's infrastructure is strained. Although the city is home to more than 350,000 people and welcomes more than 3 million visitors per year, the city was designed for a population of 35,000 people. Baguio is deploying a long-term smart city strategy to help the city adapt. This involves the installation of smart infrastructure and increased densification.

On May 30th, the delegation met with the University of Baguio, who are advancing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NiagaraU to exchange students and faculty in Criminology and Business.

The exchange program being discussed by NiagaraU and UBaguio and be expanded to include tourism and hospitality studies. UBaguio exchange students could take part in Vaughan's tourism development programming.

Staff will explore a four-member exchange between UBaguio, NiagaraU, the City of Vaughan, and Baguio City.

Look Ahead

The Delegation will depart the Philippines tomorrow.

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

For more information, please contact Raphael Costa at Raphael.Costa@vaughan.ca.