

News Release – Halifax to welcome Mayor of Hakodate and twin city delegation

(Monday, July 10, 2017) – Mayor Mike Savage and Halifax Regional Council are pleased to welcome Hakodate Mayor Toshiki Kudoh, as well as Chairman of the City of Hakodate Assembly Mr. Hiroyuki Kanazawa to Halifax this week.

The Hakodate delegation also includes representatives from the International Affairs Office, Hakodate Chamber of Commerce, the city's port and airport. The two-day visit, which begins Tuesday, July 11, is an opportunity to mark 35 years of friendship between the two cities that began with signing of Agreement of Twinning between former City of Halifax Mayor Ron Wallace and then-Hakodate Mayor Yasushi Yano on November 25, 1982.

"Friendship between cities is about many things, including promoting business, industry, and tourism. But it is also about fostering a mutual understanding of one another's cultures and learning from one another," said Mayor Savage.

The delegation has a packed schedule, including tours of the Port of Halifax, Pier 21, Halifax Central Library, and the Public Gardens, as well as presentations about Halifax municipal planning and economic development. Mayor Savage will also host a City Hall reception for Mayor Kudoh and the delegation with members of the business community, universities, and Hakodate Friendship Society members in attendance.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Mayors will join in a tree planting at Grand Parade in front of City Hall to celebrate 35 years of civic friendship.

For cities separated by 10,000 kilometres Halifax and Hakodate boast many similarities. Both have a star-shaped fort overlooking beautiful harbours and both are known for busy ports, thriving fishing industries, and a youthful university culture. Each year for the last two decades, a Nova Scotia Christmas tree is sent from Halifax to Hakodate where it stands tall on a floating barge, overlooking the city.

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