

From: alan.wang@sciinnovation.ca
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Nick Mantas](#); [Linda Zhu](#)
Subject: [External Sender] RE: Advancing the Toronto-Shenzhen Partnership through the International Alliance Program
Date: June 25, 2024 4:22:49 PM

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Dear Members of the Council and Committee,

As a dedicated resident of Toronto and the Executive General Secretary of the Canada Confederation of Shenzhen Associations (CCSA), I am writing to express our steadfast commitment to enhancing the partnership between Toronto and Shenzhen.

Over the past eight years, the CCSA has been instrumental in cultivating a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship between our two cities. We have seen fruitful cooperation across various sectors:

- Healthcare collaborations between The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) and Shenzhen Children's Hospital.
- Joint initiatives between Toronto General Hospital (University Health Network, UHN) and the School of Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen.
- Academic partnerships between Shenzhen University and the University of Toronto, as well as between China Southern University of Science and Technology and York University.
- CCSA initiated philanthropic campaigns involving over 200 Chinese associations, which collectively donated \$1.6M to The Scarborough Hospital, Mon Sheong Foundation, North York General Hospital, and Mount Sinai Hospital, among others. Additionally, the Shenzhen Mammoth Public Welfare Foundation has generously donated laboratory equipment to Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.

Moreover, our efforts have facilitated meaningful connections in economic and trade spheres, promoting exchanges that have benefited businesses and governments alike. These initiatives have resulted in six high-level visits between city leaders, culminating in the Toronto-Shenzhen Friendship & Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding.

Our collective efforts have led to the signing of the Toronto-Shenzhen Friendship & Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2017 and again in 2021. In 2019, Mayor John Tory and members of the Toronto City Council acknowledged the exceptional contributions of the CCSA, particularly in supporting the establishment of the Toronto-Shenzhen International Friendly Cities partnership.

As the City Council and Economic and Community Development Committee are reviewing the City of Toronto's International Alliance Program, we wish to express our unwavering support for this

enduring bilateral relationship. We firmly believe that nurturing this partnership will substantially benefit both cities. Our vision for the future includes:

1. Enhanced Trade Opportunities: Capitalizing on each city's unique strengths to facilitate trade and investment.
2. Innovation Ecosystems: Promoting cross-city innovation hubs, startup incubators, and joint research projects.
3. Healthcare Synergy and Charity: Sharing expertise, best practices, and medical advancements for the welfare of our citizens.
4. Educational and Cultural Exchanges: Strengthening university ties, fostering cultural understanding, and nurturing global citizens.

We appreciate you taking the time to look into this critical matter and eagerly anticipate further contributions to solidifying the official partnership between Toronto and Shenzhen again. Together, we can propel the interests and aspirations of Toronto forward while nurturing a robust relationship with Shenzhen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Wang

Executive General Secretary, Canada Confederation of Shenzhen Associations