



Burlington Mundialization Committee Meeting
Agenda

Date: January 7, 2026
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

Pages

1. Land Acknowledgement

Burlington as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabeg to the Haudenosaunee and the Métis – our lands spanning from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment are steeped in Indigenous history.

The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway, and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

2. Declarations of Interest:

3. Approval of Minutes:

3.1 Approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 5, 2025.

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4. Delegation(s):

5. Regular Items:

5.1 Itabashi Sub-committee

5.2 Apeldoorn Sub-committee

5.3 United Nations Sub-committee

6. Other Business:

6.1 The annual report and 2026 budget

7. Adjournment:



Burlington Mundialization Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: November 5, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

1. Members Present

Hassan Raza (Chair), Chris VanDooren, Allan Dykstra, Marybeth Curtin, Rachel Debling, Diana Tello, Christine Greco, Annalisa Lochan, Adam Khandil

2. Others Present

Councillor Rory Nisan, Lisa Palermo (Clerk)

3. Regrets

Anne Koopman

4. Land Acknowledgement:

The Chair read the land acknowledgement.

5. Declarations of Interest:

None.

6. Approval of Minutes:

6.1 Minutes from the meeting held October 1, 2025, were approved.

7. Delegation(s):

7.1 Kim Selman, Recreation Planner Recreation, Community and Culture regarding the City of Burlington 10-year Culture Plan

Kim provided an overview of the Burlington Culture Plan Engagement. Kim's team have been engaging with the community through an online survey, focus groups workshops, and at local events. They have also engaged with Burlington leadership and the leadership of local arts and culture organizations. Staff have developed a list of 10 insights based on

the feedback received to date and will enter Phase II of the engagement process where they will share what has been heard to date to see if they got it right. Staff will provide a report to Council in the Spring of 2026. Committee members were given the opportunity to provide their feedback.

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Itabashi Sub-committee:

Marybeth provided an update:

- the sub-committee meeting is moved to Nov. 6th at 7pm and will focus on planning for the Itabashi drop in winter event to be held at Tansley Woods Community Centre on March 7th.
- the high school pen pal program has begun. Names have been exchanged between Burlington and Itabashi students.
- the sub-committee has reached out to the Japan Foundation of Toronto to initiate coordination of another movie night for 2026.

8.2 Apeldoorn Sub-committee:

Allan and Rachel provided an update:

- the sub-committee is writing an article about Burlington's twinning relationship with Apeldoorn, for inclusion in the next issue of the Dutch newspaper De Krant. This newsletter is distributed in hard copy.
- the sub-committee is collaborating with the Burlington Committee in Apeldoorn to create a joint newsletter that will be distributed through the De Krant Dutch newspaper. The intention is to educate the community about the twin city relationship, the Mundialization Committee activities, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Motion:** to spend up to \$500 for print and distribution and advertising of an Apeldoorn/Burlington newsletter within the De Krant Dutch newspaper later this month. Carried.
- The two committees in Apeldoorn and Burlington are working closely to create content and plan distribution of the newsletter in the respective cities.
- The subcommittee is discussing the possibility of coordinating an event around the FIFA World Cup given that both Japan and the Netherlands will be participants.

- The subcommittee is seeking out schools to participate in the ongoing pen pal and art exchanges.

8.3 United Nations Sub-committee:

- the UN Day event took place at City Hall on Oct. 24th with participation from 55 students representing 4 high schools.
- Busing was an issue - \$250 expense for the school - this created a barrier for the students. The committees could consider subsidizing the busing. Early conversations with the school board would be beneficial to remove this barrier for future events.
- Dr. Edgar engaged very well with the students and provided an informative address with a lot of questions from the students.
- The flag raising was also a success with Karina Gould's Office bringing remarks, Cllr. Kearns read the proclamation and Cllr. Nisan provided remarks to the students.
- A number of students signed up to participate on the UN sub-committee.
- the sub-committee will be meeting to discuss coordination of a Model UN event in February 2026. More details to come.

9. Other Business:

9.1 Mayor's Speaker Series - November 12, 2025

Mayor Meed Ward is hosting a speaker series next week with the theme "Burlington to the World: Peace, Partnership, and the Power of Remembrance - to explore global connections through twin cities (Apeldoorn, Itabashi) and international collaboration. Following the Mayor's remarks on her travels to Helsinki, Itabashi, Japan and Washington, the Mayor will be joined by The Honourable Karina Gould, MP for Burlington, Councillor Rory Nisan and Mundialization Chair, Hassan Raza for a panel discussion. Mundialization Committee members will host a table during the trade show portion of the event.

9.2 Civic Recognition - October 21, 2025

Mayor Meed Ward presented Mundialization Committee members Anne and Arnold Koopman with a Civic Recognition award.

10. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.