



Statement by Mayor Susan Fennell

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

August 11, 2010

At today's Council meeting, Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell made the following announcement in support of Asian flood relief:

Almost two weeks ago now, three days of heavy monsoonal rains poured down on the people of northwest Pakistan, causing a level of devastation never before seen in the region. River banks burst, more than 60 bridges came tumbling down, and countless roads and buildings were washed away by the torrential rains. Most horribly, more than 1500 people lost their lives in this terrible tragedy. The United Nations is now estimating that 13.8 million people have been affected by the country's worst-ever flooding – more people than the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti quake combined.

Meanwhile, floodwaters and landslides have now reached a host of other countries within Asia, including China, India and North Korea. China, in particular, has been badly hit with the death toll estimated at 1100 people, and more than 1400 still missing. The floods have caused tens of billions of dollars in damage across 28 provinces and regions, and are widely considered the worst that China has seen in a decade.

While these natural disasters may seem a world away for many of us, I know that their effects are also being felt here at home. Brampton is home to a vibrant Asian community, many of whom are worried about the health and well-being of their friends and relatives in the aftermath of these tragedies.

As appeals for donations have started to go out to the public, I know that Bramptonians of all backgrounds are sacrificing what they can in order to help, and the City of Brampton is committed to doing the same. That's why I am announcing today that all proceeds from our annual Farmers' Market Pancake Breakfast on September 11th will go toward flood relief efforts in Asia. The breakfast will run from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the patio in Garden Square, and diners will receive 2 large pancakes with real maple syrup, coffee and juice for just \$5.

I'm encouraging all Bramptonians to come out with their friends and family to the Pancake Breakfast on September 11th to support the important relief work being done on the ground in Asia. And if anyone would like to make a donation to the cause, Council is urging residents to support respected, international agencies like the Red Cross, World Vision and UNICEF.

In the wake of this tragedy, it is my sincere hope that we, as a community, can come together to make a difference in the lives of those suffering across the Asian continent.

-30-