

District of Kaoma, Zambia (Africa)

The City of Nelson signed a Sister City Agreement with the District of Kaoma, Zambia in 2012. The Agreement assists to establish and maintain recognition of each other in a municipal partnership to deepen friendly relations and mutual understanding while promoting cooperation and contributing to the prosperity of both municipalities.

This Municipal Partnership agreement assumes the relationship is facilitated in partnership with Women for Change in Zambia; VIDEA in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada and Nelson and Area Kaoma Alliance (NAKA) in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada.

Background:

Following several years of community engagement in Nelson and relationship building with stakeholders and community members, the *Nelson and Kaoma Area Alliance* (NAKA), a committee of VIDEA (a BC-based international development agency with 35 years' experience) has developed a relationship of friendship and solidarity between different partners and stakeholders in Nelson and their counterparts in Kaoma.

This relationship, carried out in partnership with NAKA/VIDEA's Zambia partner organization, Women for Change, consists of relationships between youth and schools, crafters and child-serving agencies. It has also included the exchange of knowledge and information, the visit to Kaoma of three Nelson representatives and the visits to Nelson of two members of Women for Change. In June and July of 2011 a letter requesting consideration of a municipal partnership was prepared by the City of Nelson in partnership with NAKA. [Visit to Zambia:](#)

In August of 2011 the VIDEA Executive Director, Lynn Thornton, visited Zambia and travelled to Kaoma with representatives of Women for Change to deliver the letter and sentiments of friendship and solidarity from the City of Nelson and NAKA. Lynn made this trip with Lorna Gunn, from the City of Kelowna who was in Zambia with VIDEA to take part in talks with district officials in the area of Senanga where the City of Kelowna also has a sister-city relationship fostered in the same way through VIDEA, Women for Change and VIDEA's Kelowna committee, the Kelowna-Zambia partnership (KaZ).

Lynn Thornton and Emily Sikazwe (Executive Director of Women for Change) met with the then District Commissioner of Kaoma, Kingford Nasilele. The letter was very well received and Mr Nasilele requested that a message should be delivered back to the City of Nelson suggesting that a municipal relationship would be very welcome. Many areas of similarity were identified between the two areas (Nelson and Kaoma) including the preponderance of forests, the need for advanced environmental stewardship and responsible forestry, the challenge of a short agricultural growing season and the importance of craft and artisanship in each district. The District Commissioner was keen to look at areas where information and knowledge could be shared to the benefit of both districts. The photo below shows Mr Nasilele (left) with Emily Sikazwe and Lynn Thornton and the Kaoma District Gender Coordinator.

Information/Background on Kaoma District:

Kaoma is located approximately 460 kilometres (290 mi), by road, west of [Lusaka](#), the capital of Zambia and its largest city. At Kaoma, the [Great West Road](#) (M9), meets the Kaoma-Kasempa Road (D301). This location lies west of [Kafue National Park](#). The coordinates of the town are:14 48 00S, 24 48 00E (Latitude:-14.8000; Longitude:24.8000),

Kaoma has previously been known by other names including: *Nkoya, Mankoya, Mankoye, Nankoya, Nunkoya*. The official name of the town was changed to **Kaoma** in 1964. The name Nkoya came from the first [Zambian](#) ethnic group to settle in the area around the 6th Century. The Nkoya people can be found in Kaoma and the surrounding areas such as [Mumbwa](#), [Mulobezi](#), [Kazungula](#), [Mungulula \(Mongu\)](#), [Kalabo](#), [Lukulu](#) amongst other districts. The Nkoya people celebrate an annual traditional ceremony called the [Kazanga Ceremony](#), which is held between April and August in [Kaoma District](#), under Chief Mwene [Mutondo](#) and Chief [Kahare](#) of the Nkoya people.

In 2006, the population of Kaoma was estimated at 14,200

Zambia is divided into 9 provinces that include; Eastern, Central, Luapula, Northern, North-Western, Copperbelt, Western, Southern and Lusaka Provinces. Within these provinces there are 72 local authorities or councils consisting 4 City Councils, 14 Municipal Councils and 54 District Councils. Kaoma is a District Council.