

[REDACTED]

To: Apology Consultation MIT:EX
Subject: RE: Sid Tan submission...

From: 周明輝 Sid Chow Tan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 1:27 PM
To: Apology Consultation MIT:EX
Subject: Sid Tan submission...

I acknowledge and thank the Coast Salish First Nations. Minister Teresa Wat, Elders, dignitaries, brothers, sisters and friends.

The power of an apology is with the receiver. My name is Sid Chow Tan. Proudly Canadian and a forty year resident of BC, I liken my being in Saltwater City Vancouver as winning life's lottery.

The BC Government's efforts to address its racist past is welcomed. With more effort, the BC Government can bring a provincial closure to the Chinese head-tax and exclusion file. Imagine an inclusive just and honourable redress.

We are a species of ideas, words and action. The ideas are of justice and honour, married to the words of an apology to manifest in action. The action of a made in BC solution for redress of 62-years of made in BC Chinese head-tax and exclusion legislation.

The surviving affected elderly seniors of exclusion are not history. They must be the priority of a BC Government all party apology. I applaud Head Tax Families Society of Canada for its call to the BC Government for a symbolic and meaningful refund of the unjust tax the province received as its share of Chinese head-tax collected by the Canadian Government.

The BC treasury has been unjustly enriched by close to \$9-million. An apology must acknowledge the wrongdoing and injustice, be redemptive to the giver, healing for the receiver and include an ample measure of best efforts restorative justice.

Without financial considerations, this apology is words without action. The BC Government can make a meaningful and symbolic gesture of refunding the close to \$9-million in unjust tax to those families who paid it.

It is these families who should determine any legacy initiatives arising from the apology. What better legacy than an inclusive just and honourable redress and closure of the file for the BC Government?

It is very Canadian and British Columbian to ask for the refund of an unjust tax.

If you take a dollar from my family or me unjustly and apologize, does that mean you can keep the dollar?

We all stand before history. It is good that the power of an apology is with the receiver.

Thank you for the pleasure of speaking with you.

Sid Tan 

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In all fighting, the direct method may be used for joining battle, but indirect methods will be needed in order to secure victory.

In battle, there are not more than two methods of attack – the direct and the indirect; yet these two in combination give rise to an endless series of manoeuvres.

The direct and the indirect lead on to each other in turn. It is like moving in a circle – you never come to an end. Who can exhaust the possibilities of their combination?

Sun Tzu, The Art of War