

[REDACTED]

---

**Subject:** RE: Chinese Apology - Legacy Project

---

**From:** Doris Chow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2014 11:06 AM  
**To:** Apology Consultation MIT:EX  
**Subject:** Chinese Apology - Legacy Project

Dear Minister Wat,

Happy Year of the Horse.

We are writing to propose a legacy project to the Government as a part of the reconciliation process for the Chinese Canadian community. We hope that you will seriously consider this initiative as it aims to recognize the historical significance of the role of clan and society associations, founded in the spirit of kinship, which historically served to address the social, political and financial needs of Chinese Canadians in communities across British Columbia. We look forward to further discussing this proposal with you. You could reach us via email at [REDACTED].

Kind regards,

Doris Chow, Anita Lau and J. Stewart

## Legacy Fund Proposal:

# Honouring Chinese Clan Associations and Societies in British Columbia

On November 26, 2013, the Government of British Columbia announced that it would begin a consultation process to “engage with Chinese Associations and individuals who were directly and indirectly impacted by prejudicial legislation to work towards offering an appropriate public apology, read in the provincial legislature supported by all parties in the BC government”.

Reconciliation does not simply start or end with an apology. The consultative process should inform the government to better understand what reconciliation means for all stakeholders and what redemptive actions are necessary. It should also inform the public through a reconciliation dialogue relating to the historical discriminatory practices of Chinese-Canadians by BC legislators.

Despite government considerations on how best to reconcile historical wrongs and discriminatory laws faced by Chinese-Canadians in the past, there remains a Chinese-Canadian population that currently experiences discrimination and neglect.

**How can the government ensure that the reconciliation process is relevant today and will bridge intergenerational divides?**

A number of issues and concerns were identified by more than 25 Downtown Eastside service providers who gathered in Vancouver on January 9, 2014 to share and discuss first-hand observations. Front line workers discussed many issues faced by low-income Chinese-Canadian seniors living or accessing services in the neighbourhood.

Issues of particular concern for low-income Chinese-Canadian seniors include: barriers to accessing needed services such as basic medical care and mental health services; inadequate or unsuitable housing and potential homelessness; safety; language barriers; isolation; poor food security; and racism and discrimination.

Addressing these concerns could be answered in part by recognizing the historical significance of the role of clan and society associations, founded in the spirit of kinship, which historically served to address the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians in communities across British Columbia.

**Clan and society associations, founded in the spirit of kinship, historically served to address the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians in communities across British Columbia.**

To bridge this history to the current realities of today, it is proposed that the government create a legacy fund to help renovate and upgrade clan and society association buildings to re-purpose and re-equip them to serve the needs of today's community. This fund would help to offer renovated, usable community cultural space, food programs for seniors, and affordable housing units.

Our province has a chance to reconcile with its history and then, in turn, strengthen its future. A Legacy Fund created for this initiative will bolster the neighbourhood and ensure the continuing role of Chinese societies and Clan Associations, today and for the future.

**Upgrading clan association buildings can address challenges faced by seniors today, and leave a significant and lasting legacy of the reconciliation process.**





573 East Hasting St. Vancouver V6A 1P9

January 27, 2014

Recently, Downtown Eastside service providers gathered to share and discuss first-hand observations from the front-lines concerning issues faced by Chinese seniors living and/or accessing services in the neighbourhood. The following issues of particular concern were identified: language barriers; isolation; inadequate or unstable housing; safety; food security; racism and discrimination; and barriers to accessing medical care and mental health services.

As the Provincial Government works towards an apology for past discriminatory legislation, we, as front-line service providers observe that there remains a Chinese-Canadian population in our community that continues to face discrimination and neglect. Some of these seniors are people who recall the discriminatory practices of the past. We recognize the historically significant role of Chinese Society and Clan associations in serving the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians and agree that this is an opportune moment in our Province's history to build a significant, lasting legacy as part of the reconciliation process.

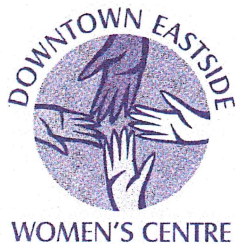
To bridge the history to the current realities of today, we are calling on the government to create a legacy fund to be dedicated to the rejuvenation of the historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings. These buildings would be renovated in order better serve the needs of today's community by creating usable community cultural spaces, space for food programming, and affordable housing.

We, the undersigned, are pleased to support the proposal for the Government of British Columbia to establish a legacy fund to help address the issues as identified by reinvigorating the many historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings located in our community.

Sincerely,

Benita Ho

President, Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House



January 27, 2014

On January 9, 2014, over 25 different Downtown Eastside service providers gathered to share and discuss first-hand observations from the front-lines concerning issues faced by Chinese seniors living and/or accessing services in the neighbourhood. The following issues of particular concern were identified: language barriers; isolation; inadequate or unstable housing; safety; food security; racism and discrimination; and barriers to accessing medical care and mental health services.

As the Provincial Government works towards an apology for past discriminatory legislation, we, as front-line service providers observe that there remains a Chinese-Canadian population in our community that continues to face discrimination and neglect. Some of these seniors are people who recall the discriminatory practices of the past. We recognize the historically significant role of Chinese Society and Clan associations in serving the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians and agree that this is an opportune moment in our Province's history to build a significant, lasting legacy as part of the reconciliation process.

To bridge the history to the current realities of today, we are calling on the government to create a legacy fund to be dedicated to the rejuvenation of the historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings. These buildings would be renovated in order better serve the needs of today's community by creating usable community cultural spaces, space for food programming, and affordable housing.

We, the undersigned, are pleased to support the proposal for the Government of British Columbia to establish a legacy fund to help address the issues as identified by reinvigorating the many historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings located in our community.





EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRES  
FAMILY PROGRAMS  
INTERPRETATION SERVICES  
SETTLEMENT SERVICES  
TRANSLATION SERVICES

January 27, 2014

To whom it may concern:

On January 9, 2014, over 25 different Downtown Eastside service providers gathered to share and discuss first-hand observations from the front-lines concerning issues faced by Chinese seniors living and/or accessing services in the neighbourhood. The following issues of particular concern were identified: language barriers; isolation; inadequate or unstable housing; safety; food security; racism and discrimination; and barriers to accessing medical care and mental health services. As part of this network, MOSAIC is supporting the idea of establishing a legacy fund to address the housing needs of Chinese seniors in the downtown east side.

As the Provincial Government works towards an apology for past discriminatory legislation, we, as front-line service providers observe that there remains a Chinese-Canadian population in our community that continues to face discrimination and neglect. Some of these seniors are people who recall the discriminatory practices of the past. We recognize the historically significant role of Chinese Society and Clan associations in serving the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians and agree that this is an opportune moment in our Province's history to build a significant, lasting legacy as part of the reconciliation process.

To bridge the history to the current realities of today, we are calling on the government to create a legacy fund to be dedicated to the rejuvenation of the historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings. These buildings would be renovated in order better serve the needs of today's community by creating usable community cultural spaces, space for food programming, and affordable housing.

We, the undersigned, are pleased to support the proposal for the Government of British Columbia to establish a legacy fund to help address the issues as identified by reinvigorating the many historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings located in our community.

Yours truly,

Eyob G. Naizghi  
Executive Director

1720 Grant St  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V6L 2V7  
Phone: 604 254 9636  
Fax: 604 254 3832  
[www.mosaicbc.com](http://www.mosaicbc.com)

OVER 30 YEARS OF INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO HELP BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY





Feeding hope. Changing lives.

January 28, 2014

On January 9, 2014, over 25 different Downtown Eastside service providers gathered to share and discuss first-hand observations from the front-lines concerning issues faced by Chinese seniors living and/or accessing services in the neighbourhood. The following issues of particular concern were identified: language barriers; isolation; inadequate or unstable housing; safety; food security; racism and discrimination; and barriers to accessing medical care and mental health services.

As the Provincial Government works towards an apology for past discriminatory legislation, we, as front-line service providers observe that there remains a Chinese-Canadian population in our community that continues to face discrimination and neglect. Some of these seniors are people who recall the discriminatory practices of the past. Union Gospel Mission recognizes the historically significant role of Chinese Society and Clan associations in serving the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians and agrees that this is an opportune moment in our Province's history to build a significant, lasting legacy as part of the reconciliation process.

To bridge the history to the current realities of today, Union Gospel Mission is jointly calling on the government to create a legacy fund to be dedicated to the rejuvenation of the historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings. These buildings would be renovated in order better serve the needs of today's community by creating usable community cultural spaces, space for food programming, and affordable housing.

Union Gospel Mission, alongside our DTES community colleagues, is pleased to support the proposal for the Government of British Columbia to establish a legacy fund to help address the issues as identified by reinvigorating the many historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings located in our community.

Sincerely,

J. Stewart – Manager, Community Engagement



Date: January 29, 2014

Ms. Teresa Wat  
MLA Richmond Centre

Dear Ms. Wat,

On January 9, 2014, over 25 different Downtown Eastside service providers gathered to share and discuss first-hand observations from the front-lines concerning issues faced by Chinese seniors living and/or accessing services in the neighbourhood. The following issues of particular concern were identified: language barriers; isolation; inadequate or unstable housing; safety; food security; racism and discrimination; and barriers to accessing medical care and mental health services.

As the Provincial Government works towards an apology for past discriminatory legislation, we, as front-line service providers observe that there remains a Chinese-Canadian population in our community that continues to face discrimination and neglect. Some of these seniors are people who recall the discriminatory practices of the past. We recognize the historically significant role of Chinese Society and Clan associations in serving the social, political and financial needs of Chinese-Canadians and agree that this is an opportune moment in our Province's history to build a significant, lasting legacy as part of the reconciliation process.

To bridge the history to the current realities of today, we are calling on the government to create a legacy fund to be dedicated to the rejuvenation of the historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings. These buildings would be renovated in order better serve the needs of today's community by creating usable community cultural spaces, space for food programming, and affordable housing.

We, the undersigned, are pleased to support the proposal for the Government of British Columbia to establish a legacy fund to help address the issues as identified by reinvigorating the many historic Chinese Society and Clan buildings located in our community.

Sincerely,



Colin Stansfield (Chair)

On behalf of the Board of Directors for The Dugout Drop-in Society:  
Ross Banister, Bob Burrows, John Cashore, Tanya Fink, Doug Hetherington,  
David Kimpton, Ken Lyotier, Susan Mendel, and Julie Turcotte



Potluck Café & Catering  
Potluck Café Society  
30 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1G6  
t: 604.609.7368  
f: 604.683.0071  
potluckcatering.com

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

From: Heather O'Hara – Executive Director  
Potluck Café Society  
30 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1G6

**RE: Concern for Chinese Seniors in our Community**

To Whom it May Concern,

Since 2001, Potluck Café Society has operated in the Downtown Eastside creating employment with training opportunities for DTES residents facing barriers and improving access to healthy food served with dignity to low income residents in our community. Our organization is witnessing first hand an increase of Chinese seniors living in poverty who require safe access to multiple community services, including food services, housing, medical care and mental health services among others. Regrettably, we are also witnessing increased discrimination and resentment against Chinese seniors accessing those services including hostility from others while accessing food in lineups and by other means.

As our province works towards an apology for past discriminatory legislation, we are concerned that Chinese seniors in particular, face ongoing discrimination and gaps in much needed social services. This is an opportune moment in BC's history to create an impactful legacy fund as part of the broader reconciliation process that includes the provision of suitable and affordable seniors housing and food programming along with creating opportunities for dialogue between Chinese seniors and other members of the community making access to food and other services safe for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Heather O'Hara", written over a series of horizontal lines.

Heather O'Hara  
Executive Director