

Proposed wording for Premier Clark apology to the Chinese community

“Whereas former BC governments have systematically passed legislations discriminatory towards Chinese lasting over a century; I, as the Premier of BC, want to apologize even after my office “quick-win” multicultural outreach strategy plan, non-Chinese media were still not invited to Chinese only press conferences related to the apology. I apologize for undermining the freedom of the press to news, the right of the 90% non-Chinese in BC to know and democracy itself. I am sorry I created further division between Chinese and non-Chinese, as well as within the Chinese community by failing to inform multigenerational English speaking Chinese. I apologize for treating this as a multicultural issue where the fact is, racism and reversing it always involve two parties and so everyone in BC is a stakeholder in BC’s reconciliation with minorities. I apologize for creating the spectacles of room full’s of Chinese asking for legacies, feeding a growing misperception of reverse discrimination and that Chinese are over-demanding.

Secondly although CFRS has released their 7 page discriminatory legislative history, with a copy to myself last April, I apologize I have not taken that seriously and assume the public does not need to know what I will be apologizing for. I apologize for posting our 7 page history only on January 6 or 7, way after our first Nov 17 consultation forum. I am sorry posting the history in a multicultural website for three weeks was far from adequate in educating the public and we ended up soliciting feedbacks before informing British Columbians of BC’s past.

I am sorry I have put the cart before the horse by proposing an apology before acknowledging the extent and nature of the historical wrongs and educating that broadly among the public and the media across the Province. To redeem myself and to prevent inflaming a volatile situation due to ignorance about our history, the delivery of the formal apology will be delayed until my government have completed the above missing tasks, consulted British Columbians and obtained a wide consensus as to what redemptive actions are appropriate.”