

Redress of British Columbia's Past Discriminatory Policies Towards the Chinese

The Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver (CBA), representing over one hundred (100) community organizations of Chinese origin, requests the Province of British Columbia to redress the past discriminatory policies towards the Chinese. The purpose of this redress is to preserve and maintain our values as British Columbians that all immigrants regardless of race or origin should be given equal treatment and respect.

The CBA holds the following position:

1. The Government of British Columbia's past discriminatory policies towards the Chinese are wrong. In particular, the Government passed discriminatory resolution acts against the Chinese community from 1858 to 1947. Chinese immigrants were subjected to 'No Chinese Clause' which excluded them from contracts and sub-contracts, BC Land Act disallowing free land for Chinese and Natives, BC's own discriminatory Immigration Act, Chinese Population Regulation Bill and others. The Chinese community and many separated families suffered inequality, hardship and losses during this period.
2. The Chinese community strongly urges the Government of British Columbia to issue a formal apology for these past discriminatory policies towards the Chinese.
3. The Government of British Columbia should acknowledge and recognize the contributions of the Chinese community towards the social and economic foundation of the Province. These include the sacrifices of the Chinese volunteers who enlisted in the defence of Canada and world peace, the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the construction of the telegraph lines, and the labourers who worked in gold mines, farms, canneries and laundries.
4. The Government of British Columbia should include the formal apology for past discriminatory practices against the Chinese and the acknowledgment of the Chinese community's contributions into the official provincial archives and incorporate such history into textbooks and the learning objectives of our school curriculum.

中華會館會訪屈潔冰廳長促省府對華人道歉

就要求BC省政府對以往對華人歧視政策正式道歉議題,溫哥華中華會館朱展倫理事長等代表於10月29日下午在省府溫哥華辦事處會訪卑詩省國際貿易亞太策略及多元文化廳長屈潔冰.中華會館於去年8月就此議題向前BC省多元文化廳長葉志明和省議員李燦明提出要求省府對華人道歉.在今年省選前,省長簡惠芝親臨訪問時向她提出,要求省政府正視當年省府對華人歧視的錯誤,並儘快作出正式道歉.

朱展倫理事長首先感謝屈潔冰廳長能在百忙之中安排這次會見.並表示很高興及感謝省政府有誠意對省府過往歧視華人的錯誤做法準備道歉.朱展倫接著就此議題闡明溫哥華中華會館及屬下近百個華人社團的立場,由該會副理事長吳俊譽用英文翻譯,向屈潔冰廳長提出:

1,BC省政府省議會以往通過的所有對華人歧視的立法和政策都是錯誤的,尤其是於1858年至1947年通過的反對華人的移民法與及規定,政府的合同及間接合同不能給予華人,不允許華人有選舉權,BC土地法不允許華人和原著民擁有永久土地權,以及其它對華人歧視的立法和政策等,對華人社區華人家庭和個人造成極大的傷害及損失.

2,強烈要求BC省政府和BC省議會對以往通過的所有對華人歧視的立法和政策做出正式道歉.

3,BC省政府應對華人以往對BC省的經濟和社會建設做出的貢獻,包括對華裔軍人獻身保衛加拿大和世界和平作出犧牲的精神,華工修建連接BC省和其它省份的加拿大太平洋鐵路,修建通訊和電桿線路,在礦山及農場作業及其它基礎建設與社會的經濟做出的貢獻給予肯定.

4,BC省政府將就以往對華人歧視的錯誤立法和政策作出正式道歉及承認華人對BC省經濟和社會的發展做出的貢獻作為歷史記錄列入教科書及BC省的史冊.

提出以上要求之目的是為維護BC省的價值觀,即對所有移民無論其原籍或來自何處都應該給予平等對待及尊重.

屈潔冰廳長認真聽取了中華會館代表們的發言並收下中華會館的意見書.表示省府會在近期就此議題安排多次公聽會,希望華社配合及鼓勵華人積極參加並提出意見.省府準備在2014年1月下旬完成諮詢,儘快在省議會通過向華人正式道歉的提案.