

[REDACTED]

From: CCIA [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2013 12:49 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Cc: Minister, MIT MIT:EX
Subject: Letter to Premier of BC, Canada re need for process of reconciliation

Dear Premier:

We want to thank the government's attempt to offer apologies to minorities it offended or discriminated much earlier in history. However in the case of BC's Chinese population, since the lengthy discriminatory policies towards them occurred long time ago and that history has not been included in BC's school curriculum, the government should first educate the public on what happened before consulting them on the wordings of an intended apology. This is to avoid an even larger mainstream backlash against the Chinese community due to ignorance and misunderstanding of what transpired. Please note such ignorance already manifested itself when hundreds of non-Chinese responses were negative to the proposed apology in their responses to a CBC report dated Nov 17. So if the intended apology is to reflect the will of one group of people acknowledging its mistakes and remorse over the offending of another people group, then education of the masses of BC's past mistakes must be made a pre-requisite. That need together with the need for a process of reconciliation has been communicated to you directly when you were a leadership candidate in January 2011 and before election in April 2013, and indirectly through several Liberal MLAs and many of our media events.

To provide a solution even at this late stage, we have made a new suggestion to Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade, and Minister Responsible for the Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism. The suggestion was then announced at a press conference in the presence of a panel of non-Chinese community leaders last Friday, followed by yesterday's update to CFRS friends (see below). As the matter is of public and international concern, we are copying this to the larger media. In the meantime, we urge you to provide the leadership to cause the appropriate change and make this the most meaningful Christmas for the province.

With best Christmas wishes,
Bill Chu
Chair, Canadians For Reconciliation Society

[REDACTED]

Bcc: media

From: CCIA [REDACTED]
Sent: December 10, 2013 3:34 PM
Subject: 12-10-13 CFRS update

Dear friends:

Nelson Mandela has inspired many of the need to recognize injustice and to seek redemption and reconciliation for our nations, although that path often appears impossible and lonely. As we continue to remember him, I hope our actions will increasingly be guided by hope and peace rather than the conforming forces from BC's colonial past.

Against Mandela's legacy of true reconciliation, it is ironic that Canada's political leaders including five past and present PM's attended Mandela's memorial, despite their dismal showings on reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous People. As if words re Mandela would prop up her own image and conceal her failure to

acknowledge stacks of past BC legislations discriminatory towards Chinese, Christy Clark added "As a student of history and He taught us that nothing is impossible, that we have a responsibility to one another...."

It is also ironic with all media focusing on this global symbol of reconciliation, only one English language media attended our press conference last Friday on BC's need for a process of reconciliation:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Activists+want+broader+consultation+over+proposed+ethnic+Chinese+apology/9257936/story.html>

The rest who attended were Chinese media, though we keep reminding everyone reconciliation is not an "ethnic" issue. Here is a sample of their many reports:

<http://www.fairchildtv.com/news.php?n=ebc52c59616af7800f2beee546111646>

<http://news.singtao.ca/vancouver/2013-12-07/province1386413919d4826265.html>

http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van/24182184/article-

[%E5%90%91%E8%8F%AF%E8%A3%94%E9%81%93%E6%AD%89-](http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van/24182184/article-%E5%90%91%E8%8F%AF%E8%A3%94%E9%81%93%E6%AD%89-)

[%E6%9C%AC%E5%9C%B0%E5%9C%98%E9%AB%94-](http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van/24182184/article-%E6%9C%AC%E5%9C%B0%E5%9C%98%E9%AB%94-)

[%E8%AB%AE%E8%A9%A2%E6%9C%83%E6%87%89%E6%94%B9%E7%82%BA%E6%95%99%E8%82%B2%E6%9C%83?instance=bc_bull_left1](http://www.worldjournal.com/view/full_van/24182184/article-%E8%AB%AE%E8%A9%A2%E6%9C%83%E6%87%89%E6%94%B9%E7%82%BA%E6%95%99%E8%82%B2%E6%9C%83?instance=bc_bull_left1)

During that press conference, I used South Africa's former Bishop Desmond Tutu's words: "*My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.*" to highlight the need to engage both Chinese and non-Chinese public in the Government consultations. In a culture idolizing individualism, we are constantly bombarded by messages that being human is just about how one treats oneself. However Bishop Tutu pointed out one's humanity is defined by how one treats others. So irrespective of one's possession or status, one's humanity is intrinsically tied up with that of others. By only consulting with the Chinese community on the wordings of the intended apology, our Premier is missing this basic understanding of humanity, as well as the fact that reconciliation must involve the understanding of both the offending and the offended parties. Getting back to South Africa, would reconciliation happen if the grave injustice towards the blacks was not acknowledged and government efforts were only directed at appeasing some black community leaders?

Here we are not trying to be harsh to any politician. We simply believe only the truth can set all of us free from the massive ignorance and bias among many responding to the Nov 17 CBC report. To be positive, the government can undertake a proper process of reconciliation, as the City of New Westminster has done in 2009-2010. It is still not too late for BC government to change its upcoming six consultations into six educational sessions so that they will serve to educate the public re past BC policies discriminatory towards the Chinese. That will lay the foundation of understanding among the bigger public before consulting them on suggestions of possible redemptive actions. Such process will be far more redemptive than consultations with just the Chinese.

Yet even after a proper process of reconciliation, transformation will not come automatically. Indeed any racial reconciliation is rarely the result of a top-down single event but a continuum and a continuous grassroots effort towards restoration of relationship that we humans are created for: one based on mutual respect irrespective of creed, faith and skin colors. So we will need your help to inspire others to take ownership in the renewal and restoration of relationship, and to do more collectively in the future. As the Province former policies were driven by societal discriminatory mindsets then, the success of reconciliation now will depend to what extent the society will be humbled and liberated from the colonial mindset of alienation and assumed superiority over others.

So our quest is not because we want to side with one community or one political party, as some insinuated, but because we want humanity to triumph despite its past mistakes. Our Friday press event was simply to propose a solution to the government's dilemma. As the world mourns the loss of a giant, BC can receive his gift of

reconciliation if only our Premier can take a step of faith and enter into a process made famous in South Africa, and that, in a colony younger than Hong Kong, will be good news worth celebrating this Christmas.

With best wishes of Christmas,

Bill Chu
Chair, Canadians For Reconciliation Society

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." — Nelson Mandela

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 3:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Proposal from CFRS

Nikki,

I can't remember, Did we get a copy of this letter below from Bill Chu in the MIT email or in print?

Thanks,

-Gabby

From: Chan, Trix K [REDACTED]
Sent: December-06-13 10:08 AM
To: Wat, Teresa MIT:EX; Parhar, TJ S MIT:EX; Kalaw, Gabby MIT:EX; Bremner, Hector MIT:EX
Subject: FW: Proposal from CFRS

Dear all,

Please find below a letter from Bill Chu. Thanks.

Warm Regards,

Trix Chan

Constituency Assistant to Hon. Teresa Wat, MLA for Richmond Centre

From: Wat.MLA, Teresa
Sent: December 6, 2013 10:07 AM
To: Chan, Trix K
Subject: FW: Proposal from CFRS

From: CCIA [REDACTED]
Sent: December 6, 2013 9:05 AM
To: Wat.MLA, Teresa
Subject: Proposal from CFRS

Attn: Honorable Teresa Wat

Dear Teresa:

I want to thank the government for its intention to offer apologies to minorities it offended or discriminated in history. However with respect to the government's plan to apologize to the Chinese community, we are surprised that the first of a series of consultations on the wording of the apology was started with only Chinese organizations and individuals, and that the history disclosed is both inadequate to convince the public as well as being placed in a minimally advertised website. If an apology is indeed reflecting the will of one people group to acknowledge its mistakes and remorse over

the offending of another people group, then it should reach and involve all people particularly in a democracy.

As an old time friend, I am not trying to be harsh on the government as we believe we are working towards the same goal of reconciliation. I also believe only knowing the historical truth will set all of us free. So towards that end and to be positive, we suggest the government to undertake a proper process of reconciliation, as the city of New Westminster has done in 2009-2010. If somehow that is difficult, it is still not too late for you to change the upcoming six consultations into six educational sessions so that those will serve to educate the bigger public re past BC government policies towards the Chinese. That will lay the foundation of understanding among the bigger public before consulting them on suggestions of possible redemptive actions. We feel that is the best plan after considering the different interests and responses out there.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to a more promising response from the government.

With best hopes of Christmas,

Bill Chu

Chair, Canadians For Reconciliation Society



I appreciate the brave administrative efforts in holding 5 of this in last 15 days and the grace in allowing me to speak 2 extra minutes tonight.

Unlike others, I am here not just representing an organization. I am here to represent the voices of our forefathers from the many forgotten Chinese heritage sites I visited in BC: those railway workers blown to pieces in a now abandoned CPR tunnel, those working by hot lime kilns while sweat mixed with lime dust burned their skins and eyes; the 400 on a remote island extracting limestone blocks, and the placer gold miners who died without teeth, hair and finger nails after a rough life of moving rock and gravel in the Fraser canyon.

在 BC 省的道歉諮詢，若我們只跟著省府提出的框架，照着官方本子辦事，我們必唔會得到一個真正的種族和解。

省府除內陸諮詢會外，有關道歉發布會只選擇中文傳媒參與，所以諮詢會內大多數為關心社會的較新移民。對他們省府一面無提供一個基於考古學、歷史學、政治學、法律學等等跨學科對本省歷史的理解，一面推出烏籠式的諮詢框架，單方預定諮詢結果，單方預定事先無需大事教育省民關於過去歧視華裔歷史，亦無需事先獲得非華裔省民對道歉的支持，是以省府在諮詢過程內用多元文化部將華裔、非華裔省民設法隔離，較齊的歧視簡史拖延至三週前才上載網站，省府這種黑箱作業、瞞天過海的手法，在社會已產生了分化疏離而不是種族和解的反應。

加和會在此鄭重提醒省政府，對華裔省民一個世紀長的系統性歧視性政策，不是偶然的歷史錯誤，而可被歸類為違反人道罪行，省政府應向德國和南非學習，如何對其前違反人道罪行確認及進行和解工作。

As the expressed purpose of these consultations is to identify wording for a formal apology, I am proposing the following worded apology for Premier Clark:

“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.”