

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Expression of Opinion

From: Denny Tsang [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2014 1:58 AM
To: Apology Consultation MIT:EX
Subject: Expression of Opinion

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Dennis Tsang, and I wish to express my views on the Government's initiative named "Apology on Historical Wrongs."

First, when the Government announced this initiative, it attracted very little attention from the "mainstream," English-speaking media. I only found out about it through Chinese-language media. After reading Chinese newspapers, I discovered that there was an incident during the forum in Vancouver Chinatown on 12 January where a Caucasian man staged a small protest outside the venue, where he was totally against any kind of recognition from the Government. Soon after, I attended the forum held at Burnaby on 20 January. After the entire experience, I am fairly convinced that outside the ethnic Chinese community, there is very little understanding about the entire initiative by the Government. Most outside the ethnic Chinese community do not know why the Government is intending to issue an apology. Most importantly, they do not know the actions in the past that necessitate a Government apology.

Hence, I believe that for the apology to be sincere and meaningful, it will require the Government to educate the public about the discriminatory legislations and other wrongful Government actions of the past. The public needs to know the actions of past Governments, and would help them better understand that those actions conflict with the multicultural nature of British Columbia today. I suggest part of the education program should be like the way that the *Komagata Maru* Incident is today.

On the delivery of the apology itself, I believe that it should be issued by *both* the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier of British Columbia. While the Lieutenant Governor can issue the apology in an official, televised ceremony at Government House, the Premier should issue the apology on the floor of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. In addition, the apology should be issued as a motion at the British Columbia Legislative Assembly. With the apology issued as a motion of the Legislature, it would be a sign of general support, thus would be more sincere.

In terms of compensation, as it has been mentioned by many that, the Federal Government was responsible for the collection of Head Tax, I believe that the Provincial Government has no responsibility to provide compensation for the people who paid for the Head Tax.

Regards,

Dennis Tsang

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]