

我参加了January

20, 2014, 在本那比關於“人頭稅”的諮詢论坛，但沒有機會发言，現傳上我的意見和建議，希望作為一種參考。

首先，我認為哈珀政府前幾年就做錯了，不應該對“人頭稅”高調道歉，更不應該給予賠償，不要認為大多數華人都同意這做法，更不要認為這附合主流意見。原因如下：

1. 當時的“人頭稅”，是明文規定的。要來就要交錢，不來就不用交錢，來與不來，完全由自己選擇，加拿大沒有強迫。當時自己選擇交錢來加拿大，現在又說不公平，要求政府道歉和賠償，這是不合情理的。
2. 來加拿大以後，想團聚，想把父母或妻女接過來，而又不想交錢，完全可以回中國同家人團聚，當時加拿大沒有禁止出境。如認為不合理，當時為何要交錢接家人過來？
3. 交過“人頭稅”的華人，在加拿大享受到的福利，絕不止500元。
4. 行動上的糾正，比口頭上的道歉更重要。過去的“不公平”、“歧視”，加拿大政府都已經糾正。現在在加拿大，不論種族，都是平等的。各級政府，都有華人當議員，前省督林思齊老先生，是我們華人的表表者！還有不少華人加入公務員的隊伍。
5. 加拿大有現在這樣好的居住環境，完全是靠全國上下、不同族裔、不同行業的人民共同創造的，不應該單單強調華人的貢獻，否則對其他族裔不公平，更會引起歧視。
6. 加拿大的鐵路有很多華工參與建設，但是若只有華工而沒有工程師、沒有設計師、沒有資金等等，也是建不成的。所以，不應認為只有華工的貢獻。

我在印尼出生，回中國讀書，文革後去香港，1997年以前，移民加拿大。相比起來，我深感加拿大最寬容、公平、友善，最有人情味。加拿大可說是世

界上對移民最好的國家。我們應該珍惜並共同維護，向前看，不要總是糾纏過去。

****道歉應該說什麼？**

我認為應該說明在當時的历史条件下，當時的政府做了現在看來是不適當的事，現政府已糾正，已給予各族裔平等的權力。

希望政府堅持原則，不要太過軟弱，不要總是妥協，否則對默不作聲的其他族裔太不公平了！

****由誰完成道歉？**

我認為由屈潔冰厅长完成最合適，因她兼管多元文化事務。當天會上，梁燕成先生提議由省督代表英女皇道歉，我很不認同。因為，如果這樣做，一定會把問題搞的更複雜，“道歉”的完成不知要拖到何時？我希望盡快結束此事，以便讓政府全力做好其他事務！

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 12:23 AM

To: Apology Consultation MIT:EX

Subject: Re: my ideas and suggestions on dealing with Head Tax

I attended the January 20, 2014 forum in Burnaby on Head Tax, but I didn't get a chance to speak so I am sending to you my ideas and suggestions for your reference.

First of all, I think the Harper Government did it wrongly a few years ago. The Government should not apologize for the Head Tax in a high tone. In addition, it shouldn't have compensated. Don't think most Chinese Canadians agreed with this method; also don't consider it fits in the mainstream society. The following is my explanation:

1. Head Tax back then was written black and white and the government regulated it. If you wanted to come, you had to pay; if you didn't want to come, you didn't have to pay. Coming to Canada or not is a matter of personal choice and Canada didn't force you. Back then you chose to pay the money to move to Canada, now you are saying it wasn't fair and demanding the government to apologize and compensate, which is not reasonable.
2. After entering Canada, they asked for the family reunion and didn't want to pay the price to bring their wives, parents and children over to Canada. If they wanted family reunion, they could have moved back to China and be united with the family. At that time, the government didn't prevent them from leaving the country. If they think it was not fair, why did they still pay the money in order to bring their families to Canada?
3. Those Chinese Canadians, who paid the Head Tax, have enjoyed the social benefits in Canada and they are worth far beyond \$500.
4. Compared with a verbal apology, it's more important to correct mistakes through actions. Past "unfairness", "discrimination", the Canadian government has corrected. Now in Canada, regardless of your race, all are considered equal. All levels of government have Chinese Canadians as members of Parliament or MLA. Take former Lieutenant Governor Mr. David Lam as an example and he is the honor in the Chinese community. Many Chinese Canadians are public servants doing public service.
5. Canada now has an excellent living environment. It's made by the great contributions from all kinds of people in the country, different races and ethnic backgrounds, various kinds of industries. We shouldn't emphasize Chinese contribution only; otherwise it would be unfair to other ethnic groups and it will lead to discrimination.

6. Many Chinese participated in building the CPR, but if there were Chinese only and without the help of engineers, designers or funding, the railway wouldn't have been built. Therefore, we shouldn't just consider the contribution of Chinese.

I was born in Indonesia and went back to China for schooling. After the Cultural Revolution, I moved to Hong Kong and before 1997, we immigrated to Canada. Compared with all those places, I deeply feel that Canada is a country with most tolerance, fairness, and kindness and compassionate with human touch. I can say Canada is the best country for immigrants in the world. We should cherish and safeguard this country together. Move forward and don't get tangled in the past.

****What should the apology say?**

I think the government should mention the historical conditions back then for them to make the policies, which seems unfair to the current society. Now the government has already made corrections, giving power equally to different ethnic groups. I wish the current government will persist in principles, don't be too weak or too agreeable, otherwise it will be too unfair to other ethnic groups who keep silent.

**** Who is going to deliver the apology?**

I think Minister Teresa Wat is the best person to make the apology because she is responsible for multiculturalism. On that day of the consultation, Mr. Thomas Leung suggested that the Lieutenant Governor should make the apology on behalf of the Queen and I don't agree with him. Because in doing so, it would make the issue more complicated and the issue of getting the apology done will be delayed forever. I really hope this issue can be dealt with soon so that the government can devote itself to other affairs.