



The Chinese Community of Nelson-As-Was and How Did It Get Here?

Chapter 2

Beverley J. Oda, of Japanese background and Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, sends a congratulatory letter to the Chinese Benevolent Society of Vancouver - in English and French.

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Comments

It is wonderful to hear a voice of conscience and with such a command of Chinese history that would shame most Chinese in the Lower Mainland today!

Out of ignorance of the vast contributions of Chinese to BC's infra structure and economy, most British Columbians has assumed a host and guest relationship with Chinese Canadians, with obvious negative consequences on current Chinese image and identity. So we (Canadians for Reconciliation Society) have started a movement to recover the missing pages in BC's history with some progress:

<http://www2.canada.com/newwestrecord/news/story.html?id=0efab3a1-7af0-4d9c-ad46-177b100766a5>.

We are not alone either. In July 2009, California made a formal apology for its past treatment of its Chinese citizens:<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-me-chinese-apology23-2009jul23,0,6784748.story>. On September 12, 2009 California Assembly Concurrent Resolution 76, sponsored by the Yee Fow Museum, was passed unanimously. It designates December 17th annually as "Day of Inclusion" in the State of California (as a redemptive act in light of the Chinese Exclusion Act 1882-1943).

Three days ago on September 15, 2009, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (the legislative branch of the City and County of San Francisco) unanimously adopted a Resolution acknowledging the historic role of the City government in advancing the policies of the US Chinese Exclusion Act. The Resolution also calls for encouraging the learning of history as well as celebration of the contributions of Chinese Americans.

Obviously the tens and thousands of Chinese who waited in vain for such apologies had passed on. But for Mr. Lao and others who see the importance of enlightenment in our history and humanity, I would encourage you all to uphold the truth and join in a wave of awakening among Chinese on the west coast of continent North America. All the best!

Bill Chu
Chair, CFRS