



ACTION! CHINESE CANADIANS TOGETHER



Press Release

For Immediate Release

July 01, 2023

Action Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT) & Asian Heritage Foundation (AHF) Southern Alberta collaborate with visual artists to share stories of Exclusion to Inclusion and Asian Canadian contributions to Canada on July 1, 2023.

Calgary-AB-100 years after the Chinese Exclusion Act, Chinese Canadians look at acknowledging the past and move forward by sharing stories and unveiling the 'No Canada Without Me' project.

The project challenges and transforms the narrative surrounding the Asian Canadian community, countering stereotypes and discrimination, promoting inclusivity, and fostering a more accurate and nuanced understanding of experiences. The “No Canada without Me | Stories of Exclusion to Inclusion” raises awareness about the contributions of essential workers from building the Canadian Railway through 150 years until the present.

[Exhibits](#) at Fort Calgary display cultural crafts and interactive games. A fashion show will feature the traditional clothing of different cultures. Four historical exhibits explore Asian Canadian communities, the Builders and Patriots exhibit, Chinatown and Japanese internment. July 1 activities culminated in a spectacular visual light and sound show projected onto the Central Public Library. A one-hour immersive experience shares stories of Asian contributions throughout Canadian history just before the fireworks. To view a trailer for the show [here](#).

These July 1 events occurred after a recent ACCT's Aspire to Lead National Summit in Ottawa when a historic remembrance ceremony in the Senate chamber marked the 100th year of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The racist legislation, which barred Chinese from Canada, was repealed in 1947 with an official apology from the federal government in 2006.

ACCT Chair and former Alberta MLA added, “Our journey to have the centenary of the Chinese Exclusion Act recognized as a national historical event in Senate chambers recently was bittersweet. The poignancy of the venue acknowledged how our upper chamber and its role perpetuated racism against the Chinese community. Canadians of all backgrounds need to learn the truth about this chapter of Canadian history and its impacts that created bias and hate in the past. It also helps us better understand our present to give us insights for the future.”

Link to an opinion article on Canada Day as Humiliation Day by Teresa Woo-Paw. [Here](#)

About the Chinese Exclusion Act: The Act was passed in 1923 as a culmination of racist laws passed by the Government of Canada to stop Chinese immigration. The Act restricted immigration and required Chinese already in the country to register. Failure to register led to imprisonment, high fines, and possible deportation. These laws led to years of harassment, racism and discrimination, leading to questions on whether Chinese were legitimately in Canada. The act was repealed in 1947. And after two decades of lobbying, in 2006, Chinese Canadians received an official apology from the federal government for excluding Chinese immigrants.

About ACCT

Established in 2017, (ACCT) Foundation is a non-partisan organization committed to empowering Chinese Canadians to participate, engage and have pride in all spheres of contemporary Canadian society to build a more equitable and inclusive space. We honour and celebrate the ground-breaking ac

For more information or to book an interview:

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