



**Chinese Canadian National Council - Toronto Chapter
Annual General Meeting**

**Beyond 25 years
"Renewing Civic Engagement"**

Sunday, February 19, 2005

Registration: Begins at 11:00 a.m.
AGM Time: 11:30 am – 2:00 pm
Location: 215 Spadina Ave., Suite 124, Toronto

Agenda

1. Confirmation of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2004-2005
3. President's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Adoption of Reports and approval of Auditor
6. Nomination of Candidates for the new Board of Directors
7. Presentation of Slate of Nominees and Election
8. Special Recognition of Outstanding Volunteers
9. Special Guest Speakers

Rose Lee Coordinator, Diversity Management of the Strategic & Corporate Policy Division of the City Manager's Office

Tam Goossen President, Community Social Planning Council

Gary Ing Member, UNITE CANADA Local 75

10. Adjournment of Meeting

Refreshments Served

全加華人協進會(平權會)多倫多分會

週年大會通告 2006

超越 25 年
重建公民合作參與

日期: 二零零六年三月十九日 (星期日)
登記時間: 上午十時四十五分開始
大會時間: 上午十一時至下午二時
地點: 平權會辦公室 215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 124

會議議程

1. 通過會議議程
2. 通過 2004-2005 週年大會會議記錄
3. 會長報告
4. 財政報告
5. 通過工作及財政報告, 通過核數師名單
6. 新董事會成員提名
7. 公報董事會新成員候選人名單及進行選舉
8. 頒發義工獎勵證書
9. 嘉賓演講
10. 大會結束

簡易午餐提供

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Minutes of 2005 Annual General Meeting of Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

February 19, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Suite 124, 215 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, ON

Chair: Kristyn Wong-Tam,

Recorder: Elaine Yuen

1. Confirmation of agenda. An amendment is made that item #10 precede item #11. With this amendment, a motion to adopt agenda is made by Kristyn, seconded by Tam Goossen.
2. Approval of minutes of AGN 2003-2004. Motion to approve last years' minutes made by Kristyn, seconded by Esther
3. President's report. Kristyn Wong-Tam made her report to the assembled group
4. HWA executive report. Esther Yip, as chair of HWA gives her report as chair. Maggie gives Cantonese translation.
5. Monkey King Collective: Youth Co-ordinator's Report. Barnett Chow, Youth Coordinator gives his report.
6. Financial report. Brian Lam, treasurer, presented the financial report and the auditor's letter.
5. Motion to adopt reports and to approve the auditor's finding made by Rick Sin, seconded by Matt Lee.
6. Nomination of Candidates. Kristyn nominates Randy Shek to the board. Producer and documentary maker. Esther nominates Yee Yong Phoh, community worker for Chinese-Vietnamese community.
7. Presentation of the slate of nominees: May Lui. All nominees are elected, no abstentions, no objections.
8. Special Guest Speaker Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Diversity Management and Community Engagement for the City of Toronto. "Building Strong Communities- City/Community Partnership"
9. Special Guest Speaker: Pat Case, President of Canadian Race Relations Foundation
10. Panel Discussion with Ceta, Pat and Kristyn. A discussion ensued re Rae Report- faculty retirements and absence of racial minority faculty, working in solidarity with other communities, problem of lack of equity issues in report, term of racialized students, Redress Campaign.
11. Certificate presentation to volunteers.
12. Back track in financial matter. Approval of auditor - Robert Chan. Rick Sin moved. Valerie Mah seconded. 10. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ye Hung Ho. Seconded by Randy. Meeting adjourned.

President's Report 2006

The year 2005 was eventful and full of challenges for CCNC Toronto Chapter. Our organization entered 25th anniversary with perseverance, determination and a sense of pride as a leading advocate for human rights in the City of Toronto.

Working under a new mandate for CCNCTO has been both challenging and rewarding. Our board of directors have worked diligently and strategically in building organizational capacity in the face of limitations in staff and funding resources. The commitment and voluntary hours put in by our board of directors, membership, community partners and volunteers have been truly incredible.

The directives of CCNCTO are not simply to implement or understand, nor are the markers of progress easy to identify or evaluate. Our commitment and efforts in promoting civic engagement and equality through public education, human rights advocacy and social planning can be measured in our past 25 years of achievement. We continue to push for political, societal and economical change. Time has shown us that we could achieve lasting and meaningful change in the lives of those who can not speak for themselves. In the face of changing political climate, globalization and demographics, the work of social justice remains the cornerstone of CCNCTO.

CCNCTO has seen a year full of activity. We have endured some great achievements and encountered some unexpected challenges. Most encouraging is throughout the past year our organization has seen renewed political activism within the Chinese community. This is one marker of how grassroots mobilization can have a profound impact on social change. This is the root of civic engagement and the heart of our cause. The past year CCNCTO has undertaken some significant projects from the Research and Social Planning Committee, the Anti-Racism Committee, the youth driven Monkey King Collective, and the Women's Committee in particular the continued development of the Homeworkers' Association (HWA).

Many of these projects have propelled our organization into the forefront of being leader of civic engagement and advancing our work as social justice, human rights advocates. What sort of change this means on a broader scope is yet to be determined in time but certainly they have put CCNCTO as a relevant organization when it comes to engaging our community. We entered the year by issuing a press release criticizing a racially insensitive statement made by a member of the Toronto Police Services after a series of Marijuana Grow-Ops were discovered in the East end of the City. This result in a meeting with Toronto's newly appointed Chief of Police to discuss the broader issue of racial profiling and need for diversity training in the Police force. This was one of the first meetings the Chief had with community members since his appointment. CCNCTO now has representation on the Police Chief's advisory council.

Through our partnership with the Alternative Planning Group (APG) and other social development organizations, CCNCTO will be advancing our work providing alternative social planning. CCNCTO will be one of the leading members to consolidate the development and internal structure of the Alternative Planning Group as well as to refine the Alternative Policy Development Framework to be applied into social planning.

The HWA this year had made some astounding milestones including the hiring of a co-ordinator as well as opening up their own office in Scarborough to outreach and serve their membership.

We co-presented many prominent films that touched upon social issues within the Chinese Community sparking much interesting discussion and debate. This resulted in CCNCTO hosting regular film screenings of movies that are truly representative of the Chinese community.

This year CCNCTO partnered with our CCNC National Chapter along with the Ontario Coalition of Head Tax Payers to mobilize the Chinese community in making the racist Head Tax an important federal election issue.

In partnership with our National Chapter, we celebrated our Silver Anniversary with a very successful 25th Anniversary Banquet fundraiser, recognizing both organization's past achievements.

Finally, our year ended on a high note with CCNCTO receiving recognition from the City of Toronto's Access and Equity & Human Rights Awards. CCNCTO was the recipient of the ***William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations***.

We want to acknowledge that our organization is driven many incredibly selfless and visionary people. From the executive board to the administrative office, much of what we do is done by our dedicated volunteers. There are too many people to recognize individually and we would like to extend a personal note of gratitude to Dr. Izumi Sakamoto, Dr. Jane Ku, and the Research and Social Planning Committee advisors; Dr. Roxanna Ng, Hing Tse and the HWA advisors; Irene Ho, Yoko Tsuyuki and other office volunteers. A special thanks to our past Executive Director Dr. Helen Poon for all her continual support of our organization.

Of course, none of our accomplishments would have been possible without our hard-working and talented staff. Namely our recently departed Executive Director, Andy Mark, our Youth Co-ordinator, Barnett Chow, our project coordinators Alena Li, Shall Shao, Dora Yeung and our accounting consultant Teresa Ng. In addition, we also want to express our gratitude to our funders who have supported our vision and continue to do so over the years. Namely, The City of Toronto, Status of Women, Lesbian Gay Community Appeal, the Laidlaw Foundation, Mayworks, the Union of Food and Commercial Workers Canada Local 175 & 633.

Finally, we would like to thank the Board of Directors for their perseverance, wisdom and courage. We are proud to have served as your President for the past year. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for the many experiences, opportunities and blessings of friendship that you have bestowed upon us and CCNC Toronto Chapter.

In Solidarity,
Lele Truong
President

Matthew Lee
Immediate Past Co-President

ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

January 2005 to March 2006

Anti-Racism

At the Toronto Chapter, the two core groups that carry out CCNC's mandate of advocating against racism and promoting civic participation are the Anti-Racist Committee and the Monkey King Collective, Toronto Chapter's flagship youth section. We have an impressive history of achieving success in advocacy and education work. The year 2004-5 is no exception. For the Anti-Racism Committee, the Toronto Chapter has been invited by the Toronto Police Chief his Advisory Council to fight against racial profiling and institutional racism. This was in direct result of the Toronto Chapter taking a strong stance against a comment made to the Toronto Star by a senior police officer, linking marijuana grow operations to Mainland Chinese immigrants. Meanwhile, we continue to take part in policy formulation and advocacy actively through our involvement with the City of Toronto Working Group on Immigrant and Refugee Issues, the Alternative Planning Group, the Social Development Network, and the Chinese Inter-Agency Network. Public and youth education in media literacy and Chinese Canadian history continue to feature prominently in the Toronto Chapter's activities. For the former, various panel discussions and public film screening events were held to heighten public and youth awareness of media issues in the age of information. In November 2004 we held a highly successful panel titled "Can We Do It With an Oriental Accent" which explored the obstacles young Asian-Canadians face in pursuing a career in mainstream media. Invited speakers shared their experiences and ideas about how to combat stereotypes and career barriers with an audience of mainly university students.

Response to Councillor Michael Thompson's statements

Statements made by the Scarborough City Councillor on how to solve the gun and gang violence in the streets of our city by having police officers stopping all black male youth sparked outrage. CCNCTO responded by issuing a press release demanding a retraction of the Councillors comments.

Head Tax

The redress for the racist Head Tax was one of CCNC's founding issues. The year 2005 saw an exciting new development in this 25-year old campaign. When the former Liberal government announced that they had entered into a controversial Agreement in Principle with a hand-picked Chinese organization in mid-2005, this issue once again galvanized CCNC's leadership and base. Working along with the National Chapter and the Ontario Coalition of Headtax Payers, Spouses and Descendants in Ontario, CCNCTO played a front and centre role in the media campaign and in formulating the legal strategy to make redress an election issue. CCNCTO Executive has also played an instrumental part in bringing different CCNC Chapters and Chinese Canadian community organizations together to push for official government recognition and reopening dialogue with headtax payers and families. As a result, all major political parties with the shameful exception of the Liberal Party, had included giving a formal apology in the House part of their official campaign platform. The new Conservative Government, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, have made an announcement soon after winning the election, promising a formal apology in the House. CCNCTO along with our partners, while welcoming this promising step forward, will continue to press the Canadian Government in giving fair and equitable resolution to the surviving headtax payers and those who suffered as a result of this shameful past of our history.

City of Toronto Access & Equity and Human Rights Awards

CCNCTO were recipients of this years William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations. On November 2005, Toronto Mayor David Miller, City of Toronto Councillors Janet Davis, and Raymond Cho presented our organization with the City's highest honour for work in creating a positive race relations climate in the City of Toronto.

Same-Sex Rights

In 2004 CCNCTO invited Asian community groups to come together to build a progressive voice in a show of support for same-sex marriage. All in all over 20 organizations sponsored the mission statement of the newly formed, Asian Canadians For Equal Marriage (ACFEM). ACFEM was publicly launched to the Chinese media in April 2004 and although the future of this loosely formed coalition was uncertain, the public impact with the Chinese press was generally positive. When there was no voice of support before ACFEM, there is one today. That voice took on the form of brochures translated in Chinese text emphasizing reasons to support same-sex marriage.

Research and Planning

The social diversity is the most powerful representation in Toronto. Research is the foundation of social advocacy. CCNCTO's Research and Social Planning Committee is undertaken several major research projects to explore issues confronting Chinese seniors, women and immigrant population.

Breaking Cycle of Violence Against Women

This project is collaboration between four organizations, namely Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNCTO), Chinese Family Services of Ontario (CFSO), Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic (MTCALC), and South Riverdale Community Health Centre (SRCHC). This project aims to eliminate domestic violence within the Chinese Canadian community by empowering Chinese Canadian women victims of violence through the process of telling and retelling their own stories. The target communities being served are all Chinese-speaking women within GTA, with a particular focus on the Mandarin-speaking Chinese Canadian community in Downtown Toronto and Scarborough area. On March 30th 2006, we will be launching a bilingual website (English and Chinese) to provide information related to violence against women so that more can be done to combat abusive behaviour.

Addressing Poverty and Service Access Issues for Chinese Canadian Seniors in Toronto: Building Community Capacity for Action

This project is a collaborative partnership between the CCNC Toronto Chapter, Council of Agencies Serving Asian (CASSA), Hispanic Development Council (HDC), and African Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC). The project is funded by the City of Toronto Access and Equity Grants Program. One of the project objectives is that we want to ensure income security and an adequate standard of living for seniors from ethnic minority population. A project coordinator was hired to conduct outreach to Chinese seniors, service providers, community stakeholders and research issues and barriers that lead to problems of senior income security, civic engagement, and access to services. A public forum is scheduled on May 6th, 2006.

Voices of Mainland Chinese Skilled Immigrants in Toronto Public Forum

CCNCTO co-hosted a public forum in July 2005 with Professor Izumi Sakatomo from University of Toronto to address *Employment and Social Cohesion issues* facing Chinese skilled immigrants. The research study focused on the experiences of "earlier" Mainland Chinese skilled immigrants in Toronto. The public forum brought together Mainland Chinese Professional immigrants, social service providers, community agencies, academics and ethnic media. The public forum attracted approximately 50 people.

Capacity Building and Infrastructure Development of Alternative Social Planning Group and Social Development Network

The Social Development Network (SDN) was established in 2004 with the approval by Toronto City Council to start a collaborative approach in community planning structure. CCNCTO is one of the ten founding members of Social Development Network (SDN). We continue to work in partnership with the African Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC), the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) and the Hispanic Development Council (HDC) in the ongoing Alternative Planning Group (APG). With the financial support

from City of Toronto Community Services Grants Program, CCNCTO is able to continue its role in APG programs and project to ensure a planning perspective from all ethno-racial diversities are truly put into practice, until it becomes fully entrenched in advanced planning and development models.

Community Education and Outreach

Civic Engagement

For over ten years, CCNCTO has been active with our Social Development Network partners. We were one of the sponsors of the Community Social Planning Council's federal election all candidates debate. CCNCTO also partnered up with our National Chapter to work on educating and mobilizing the Chinese community in calling federal Parties to support Head Tax redress during the federal elections.

Film Screenings

As part of a new initiative to bring Chinese Canadian history to our own community and to the mainstream, CCNCTO staged a number of film screenings over the past year. The first was the ever-popular *Chinese Restaurants* series by one of CCNC's founders, Cheuk Kwan, co-presented with the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the North American Association of Asian Professionals Toronto Chapter. The screening of the 'Canada' episode of this seminal series was particularly appropriate in hindsight considering the prominence of the head-tax issue within the Chinese community and the attention garnered from the mainstream media during the General Election. With the generous support of the National Film Board of Canada, CCNCTO launched its regular bi-monthly series in October 2005. The first screening, Ann Marie Fleming's *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam* was very well received as it tells the story of a long forgotten Chinese Canadian vaudeville performer who, in the early 1800s, was an international celebrity. The second screening on Chinese New Year was highly successful and attracted a full house at the NFB. A lively and thought-provoking discussion ensued with the producer, writer and director of the three films shown: *A Chink in the Armour*, *Shaolin Delivery Boy* and *Western Eyes*. CCNCTO plans to continue this successful initiative and will look at other entertaining and creative ways to reach out to our member base and to the younger generation.

Advocacy and Coalition Building

CCNCTO and the Homeworkers' Association

CCNCTO continued our collaboration and support to the Homeworkers Association. Details of activities with HWA are listed in this report.

Chinese Canadian National Council Banquet

On November 25, 2005, both CCNC National and CCNCTO celebrated our great success and contributions to the Chinese community by hosting our 25th Anniversary Banquet at Ruby Restaurant. We had more than 400 guests. Our banquet began with a grand opening by the Lion Dance from Lat Yip Lion Club. Our guest speakers were Dr. Joseph Wong, former City Councillor Olivia Chow, Susan Eng and George Lau from Ontario Coalition of Chinese HeadTax Payers and Families. There was a great performance by Moulann, and led into our highlight event of the evening – our Live and Silent Auction. The most interesting live auction item was bid by our own Board Member – Kristyn Wong-Tam, for an exciting Bike Ride with our past-Immediate Executive Director – Andy Mark. Last but not least, we'd like to thank all the great contributions by all the Board members, volunteers and contributors such as Amy Go, Cynthia Pay, LiFen Zheng, Wayne Yip, Shan Tsao, Kevin Lee, AD Success Inc.

Hotel Workers Rising Campaign

In March 2006, CCNCTO issued a joint press release with the Toronto and York Region Labour Council to pledge our support to the Hotel Rising Workers Campaign, a movement to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for hotel service workers in Toronto and across North America. Chinese immigrants and ethnic

visible minority groups made up majority of the hotel service workers. CCNCTO wants to ensure that these hotel service workers receive a fair contract.

Policy Roundtable Mobilizing Professionals and Trades

CCNCTO is a member of PROMPT, an immigrant-driven, Ontario-based coalition of over fifteen immigrant professional and trade associations, community initiatives and umbrella groups. CCNCTO is an advocate to improve the access of internationally trained immigrants to find work related to their skills and professional background.

Organization and Resource Development

New Executive Director

Our Executive Director at the beginning of 2005 had resigned due to family circumstances as is the same with our most recent Executive Director Andy Mark. This is a challenge for a small organization with only one full time staff and staff on project/contract basis. In the event of unforeseen personal circumstances that render our sole full-time staff to resign or leave on an extended period of time, continuity on project is affected.

New Staff

Welcome to the new staff on board that include

Irene Ho who worked as a Summer Intern in 2005

Alena Li who works as HWA coordinator and as BCTV program assistant

Dora Yeung who also worked as one of our contract BCTV Project Coordinator

Shall Shao who presently work for our Senior Income Security Project

New Website

CCNCTO is currently working on a new website for the Breaking The Cycle of Violence as is with our Homeworkers Association

Youth Engagement through the Monkey King Collective

Youth engagement is a cornerstone at CCNCTO. Formed in 2002, Monkey King Collective (MKC) is the youth branch of CCNCTO. The MKC is comprised of Canadian-born Chinese, immigrant and newcomer youth, Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking youth from diverse Chinese ethnic origins. MKC's vision is "exemplify the Chinese Canadian youth voices from diverse socio-economic background living the Greater Toronto Area."

Goals: MKC achieves its vision by

- 1) Providing social and educational events, outreach and leadership development;
- 2) Promoting awareness of issues around discrimination, civic participation, social inclusion and diversity
- 3) Providing space for Chinese Canadian youth to prioritize and speak about their issues
- 4) Providing mentoring programs, feedback and resources

2005 was a very active year for MKC. The **Chinese Youth Speak Out! project** was completed in Spring 2005. The funding was provided by Wellesley Central Health Corporation Enabling Grant, the Chinese Youth Speak Out! project aimed to identify the barriers and solutions to Chinese Canadian youth in civic participation. A Steering Youth Committee is comprised of 15 Chinese Canadian high school students and 5 college/university students. Most of them are new immigrants. An outcome from the Chinese Youth Speak Out! project was that these youth wrote a letter to the TTC denouncing the high cost of transportation and provided suggestions for service improvement. Two newsletters for newcomer youth were published in 2005 to help other newcomers adjust to life in Toronto with interesting personal stories and games.

MKC held an event called “**Education ≠ Employment**” on March 9, 2005 at the University of Toronto to discuss youth underemployment, worker rights, what individuals and the community can do to make positive change.

MKC was the lead organizer of ‘**RepresentAsian**’, part of CCNC National’s Pan-Asian project, with community partners from the Canadian Cambodian Association of Toronto, Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance Toronto Chapter, Hong Fook Mental Health Association, and the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians. Over 30 youth attended the event where youth shared experiences on identity, power, diversity, and inclusiveness.

Chinese Canadian youth spoke against the **Grade 10 literacy test** and how it discriminates against ESL students through a press conference on March 18, 2005 at CCNC Toronto Chapter.

MKC partnered with the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada to host a series of **film screenings** of unique and interesting films about stereotypes, assimilation and racism. The film screenings were very successful with over 120 people attending. The next film screenings are in March and May; in time for Asian Heritage Month.

CCNCTO is a partner of [**murmur**] launched on Spadina Ave in October 2005. [**murmur**] is an archival audio project that collects and curates stories in Toronto. Green signs in the shape of an ear list a telephone number allowing passerby’s with mobile phones to call and listen to an audio story of a person’s experience at specific locations along Spadina. MKC volunteers recorded and translated social justice stories for this project.

The Homeworkers’ Association (HWA) and MKC partnered with Mayworks in 2005 to showcase, ‘**Threadbare: A photo exhibit of stories from Chinese Canadian Women Garment Workers.**’ MKC collected stories of homeworkers, translated stores for a booklet and designed the photo exhibit panels for display at Pacific Mall in Richmond Hill. In 2006, MKC, HWA and Mayworks are partners for a fashion showcase.

MKC participated as one of the organizers of an **Asian Heritage Month Education Roundtable** at the University of Toronto to investigate how the high school curriculum is not representing ethnic minorities and the steps we can take to advocate for change.

MKC participated in the City of Toronto youth working group on Children, Youth and Education.

Outreach

- Outreached at the University of Toronto, Ryerson University and York University to increase awareness of CCNCTO and MKC to over 100 university students who had not heard of us before.
- Outreached at high schools in the community, the Toronto and York region school boards, the Toronto Catholic school board, and an alternative school.
- Invited by CCNC National to speak about youth perspectives about Chinese Canadian history at the Dim Sum festival at the Harbourfront Centre and outreached to hundreds of people who attended this event.
- Outreached at City Hall for the International Day for the Elimination of Racism.

Annual Report from the Homeworkers' Association

Activities of HWA from 2005 – March 2006



Source: CCNC Toronto Chapter, 2005

Events

- January 10, 2005: Set up HWA advisory committee composed of people with various expertise such as University Professors, Labour Rights Workers, Community Development workers, Human Rights Lawyers, Union Leaders, Fashion Designers and Economic Analysts.
- August 2005: HWA part-time coordinator Alina Li was hired
- November 24, 2005: HWA moved to Scarborough office 4002 Sheppard Ave E, Suite 402

Training and Workshops

- Sunday ESL classes for members and new immigrants
- Computer classes to HWA executives offered by U of T: OISE

- January 22, 2005: Labour Rights Workshop conducted by representatives from Queen West Community Health Centre, 25 participants
- February 2005: RRSP information session
- January – July, 2005: Hands-on-training for executives to learn how to organize and coordinate special events through active participation in fundraising initiatives such as an art auction, photo exhibition and BBQ parties
- March 14, 2005: Invited to be guest speakers at George Brown College to discuss with students regarding the situation of Homeworkers
- March 15, 2005: Invited to U of T as guest speakers, both the HWA Chair and CCNCTO Executive Director had attended
- March 2005: CCNCTO Executive Director and HWA executives interviewed the Executive Director of Intercede about experience running a co-operative
- March 2005: Conducted an interview with Executive Director of Heritage Skills Development Centre about experience in conducting sewing classes and possibility of a collaboration
- April 11, 2005: Interview with Eye Weekly Magazine regarding HWA current updates
- April 30, 2005: Threadbare – HWA Photo Exhibit held at Pacific Mall, co-sponsored by May Works
- May 10, 2005: Meeting with Linda Lunstrum, to discuss the potential of having HWA members working with the designer of the company
- May 10, 2005: Meeting with Jim, a Fashion Designer to discuss how HWA can market their human resources to the fashion industry in Toronto
- June – July, 2005: Hands on training for HWA executives on how to interview and select potential candidates for HWA coordinator
- August 28, 2005: Seminar regarding: “Confused about the Employment Insurance Benefits? Get Help Now!” through partnership with Queen West Community Health Centre, 30 participants, conducted in English, Cantonese and Mandarin
Feedback session from the interviews conducted among individual HWA Executives, checked to see if they benefited from the interview process and their learning curves through joining the executive board
- January 12, 2006: Co-organized with the Chinese Interagency Network (CIN) Labour Committee’s Employment Insurance forum for Chinese workers to share their thoughts and experiences when applying online for Employment Insurance.

Community Education and Outreach

- April 30, 2005- May 6 2005: Threadbare – HWA photo exhibit of stories from Chinese Canadian women garment homeworkers co-sponsored by May Works the exhibit was held at Pacific Mall
- September 2005: HWA members and executives have joined the Chinese Interagency Network-Labour Day Parade at the Canada National Exhibition received interviews from Sing Tao Daily Newspaper and OMNI News.
- October 24, 2005: HWA held a press conference to release a new book titled “The Voice of Chinese Women Garment Homeworkers” by Dr. Helen Lai-Man Poon at City Hall 2000 copies were made. Attendees included City Councillors Olivia Chow and Paula Fletcher, Ms. Stella Ng from Heritage Canada and the Status of Women, Mr. Kevin Shimmin from United Food & Commercial Workers and Ms. Roxanna Ng from U of T. The book was delivered to all City Councillors after the event.
- October 24, 2005: the book launch attracted media such as Toronto Star, Sing Tao Daily, Ming Pao, World Journal, Today Daily News, OMNI News, Fairchild Television and Toronto Chinese Radio
- October 29, 2005: Second Book Launch at China Town Centre
- October 30, 2005: Third Book Launch at Gerrard Square Shopping Centre
- November 24, 2005: HWA moved to Scarborough to respond to the needs of increasing sewing workers in this area. It aims to promote this unique association and attract more potential members to join HWA.
- December 2005: In collaboration with CCNCTO, HWA made a presentation on Immigrant Women and Sweatshops to fashion students at Ryerson University
- January 27. 2006: Assist 20 sewing workers who recently got laid off from Triplewell products Ltd., in association with Metro Toronto Chinese & Legal Clinic, HWA carried out an Employment standards Act Seminar to sewing workers, with a focus on the issues of temporary layoffs, benefits during temporary lay-off and severance pay
- March 6- 10, 2006: HWA held photo exhibition and displayed the HWA booklet along with other materials at Toronto City Hall Rotunda during International Women’s Day.

Social Activities

- July 2005: Join BBQ party with CCNCTO MKC, 30 participants attended
- November 2005: HWA Executives attended the 25th Anniversary of CCNC and displayed photo exhibit and promote their book
- December 2005: Open House and Christmas party at HWA’s new office, over 50 participants attended, members showed interest in learning computer skills and improving their English
-

- March 2006: HWA attended the International Women's Day March, interviewed by Singtao and Apus from U of T.

Thank you to our Volunteers

Janet Cho
Trent Lin
Tengyun Lin
Kathy Zhou
Vivian Li
Hang Chen
Cathy Wang
Candy Xie
Mei Bin Mai
Feng Pan
Shuyi Wang
Lan Jiang
Agnes Zhang
Chris Chow
Anita Li
Chris Poon
Shirley Wang
Genevieve Ong
Jian Cao
Likang Zhong
Marian Ing
Bonnie Tam
Meng Wang
Mexes Chen
Mike Nguyen
Peter Huang
Rebecca Ma
William Bang
Xiongfei Du
Zheng Ji
Chris Wu
Sheng Li Lin
Gracie Qiu
Bonnie Chen

PROFILE OF BOARD CANDIDATES

Susan Kwong obtained an Economics degree from York University and has experience as a financial analyst working at The Royal Bank of Canada. After two years in the financial industry, she realized that this type of work would not fulfill her in the long run. Susan's community involvement working at the Children's Aid Society, local food bank, The United Way and a probation officer inspired her to return to school and obtained a second degree in Social Work at York University. Her interests in social policy and community development led her to work at former city councillor Olivia Chow's office. Currently, Susan is working at MP Olivia Chow's office as a constituency assistant, as she is ecstatic to be contributing to the community.

Victoria Shen has been working for social justice since 1999. Her areas of interest include women's rights, youth development, labour rights and creative resistance. She represented Canada at the UN Special Session of the General Assembly on Women's Rights (Beijing+5) in 2000 and remains active on the international arena on the protection of human rights, particularly in sexual health and reproductive rights of young women. She has worked with a range of government, labour and community organizations in grassroots organizing, community development, policy, leadership training, anti-oppression education, event coordinating and communications. She has also worked in the media as a story producer at TVO, a freelance writer with Now Magazine and is a columnist with Shameless. Most recently, she completed her law degrees at McGill and will be articling this fall in Toronto at Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre and Cornish, a law firm specializing in labour law and human rights.

Mike Ma is a long standing member of CCNC-TO. Over the past seven years he has participated in almost all aspects of the organization. For many years, he acted on behalf of CCNC-TO, as the co-chair of the Metro Network for Social Justice. As an academic, he has a keen interest in the research committee, and he is slowly and quietly working to expand its activity in the coming year.

Will Chung has been part of CCNC/MKC since the Art Auction in 2003, where he donated artwork. A graduate from the Ontario College of Art and Design's (OCAD) Illustration program. Since then he has done much of CCNC/MKC's graphic design and illustration for the last 2 years. Will joined the Board in September of 2005

Stephen Lam was born and raised in Hong Kong until his family moved to Vancouver, Canada in 1997. Stephen recently graduated from UofT in 2006 with a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering. During his time at UofT, he was actively involved with the queer student group, LGBTOUT. He started the LGBTOUT Engineering Chapter to provide a safe space for queer engineering students to socialize and politicize. Stephen was also an LGBTOUT executive for three years: two of which as the external coordinator responsible for public relations between LGBTOUT and organizations outside UofT. He was also involved with various other programs and groups on and off campus, including volunteering for the Peer Outreach Project at ACT for over 6 years. Stephen recently volunteered for Olivia Chow's campaign: canvassing, interpreting and doing some election day organizational work.

Song Ge came to Toronto 8 years ago from mainland China with his medical degree, now a proud Canadian citizen. As a minority of minorities, he realizes that, even in a democracy country like Canada, there are still many human rights issues, such as discrimination related with race, gender, age and sex orientation. He would like to do something on these issues for a better change.

Zhuo Zhang (Raymond) is currently a fourth year student majoring architectural studies and urban studies at the University of Toronto. Raymond is an international student from P.R. China. He went to high school in Singapore before he came to Toronto for undergraduate studies. He spent a year working in Singapore and China in the travel and hotel management industry.

Elaine Yuen is currently the Secretary of CCNC-TO. She is an elementary school teacher and community activist. She sits on the Equity Advisory Committee to the Toronto District School Board and is passionate about equity in education initiatives. During her time at CCNC-TO, she has been involved with the Homeworkers' Association, assisting with report writing and long term planning. Elaine's interests lie in education, women's issues and labour rights.

Liliana Da Silva was born in Macau and came to Canada in 1997. She has received an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto with a focus on Architecture and Fine Art History. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Environmental Studies at York University and studying on the relationship between ownership and use of public spaces. Liliana was an intern at Olivia Chow's office at City hall in the Fall of 2005 and has also worked on the former Councillor's successful Federal Campaign. Her current projects include a billboard audit for ward 20, an urban design competition for a community centre in a Chicago neighbourhood a strategic spatial plan for a community Church in Toronto. Liliana speaks English, Cantonese, and some Portuguese.

Lin Wong was born and raised in Toronto. She has a Masters of Environmental Studies from York University and a BSc(Env.) from the University of Guelph. She helped with the Monkey King Collective's "IdentificAsian" event for youth in 2004 and has also been on the board of the Community Bicycle Network. In addition, she has also worked for the Toronto Environmental Alliance on public transit issues. Lin was part of Olivia Chow's successful federal campaign, and prior to that, worked for Olivia in City Hall. If you see Lin biking around Toronto, be sure to wave hi!

Lele Truong believes involvement in social advocacy is a right and a responsibility. Growing up in Toronto, graduated from Ryerson University, possessed eight years of research experience, my passion for social advocacy grew with CCNCTO. It has been an honour and rewarding experience to be CCNCTO's immediate past President.

Randy Shek is an independent documentary producer and a UK-qualified barrister. Recently he was involved in the popular documentary series, Chinese Restaurants, directed by one of CCNC's founders, Cheuk Kwan. He is currently engaged with the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, assisting in the criminal prosecution of a major public health scandal. He was CCNCTO's External Vice-President from 2005 to 2006. He is seeking re-election to return to the CCNCTO Board.

Sherry Xie was a volunteer with CCNCTO in the past few years. She has been actively involved in CCNCTO, MKC and HWA activities. After graduating from Ryerson University with an Accounting major and Finance minor, she had the privilege of serving as a CCNCTO board member. Sherry continues to strive for excellence in maintaining group sustainability and promoting growth within the organization. It is her long-term goal is to develop a plan that could not only promote social justice and advocacy in Chinese community, but also, a blueprint that could be used in all the cultures that inhabit the communities we live in.

Matthew Lee was an assistant to a prominent local City of Toronto Councillor. He has been part of CCNCTO for 3 years. This past year he shared part of the Presidency with Lele Truong. Matthew Lee has a degree in Political Science from the University of Toronto and been a social activist since his graduation in 2000. His current focus is with social inclusion for minorities on all levels of government policies and services. He is also advocating for more representation of progressive Chinese Canadians in mainstream media and positions of authority.

Kristyn Wong-Tam is a community organizer, social entrepreneur and Real Estate Broker with Coldwell Banker Terrequity Realty. She is the immediate past President of the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter. Kristyn is the proud resident of a vibrant downtown Toronto neighbourhood, steps away from a beautiful green park.

Esther Yip has been a Board Member for CCNC Toronto Chapter for the past 3 years prior to being a volunteer. She is presently involved as the Chair for Homeworkers' Association, and has participated as a member of the Hiring Committee. She is also involved in the Banquet Committee. She was this years Vice President Internal.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lele Truong	President
Matthew Lee	Immediate Past Co-President
Randy Shek	Vice President (External)
Esther Yip	Vice President (Internal)
Sherry Xie	Treasurer
Elaine Yuen	Secretary
Kristyn Wong-Tam	Board Member
Mike Ma	Board Member
Will Chung	Board Member
Song Ge	Board Member
Juan Huang	Board Member
Kai Zhu	Board Member
Steven Pho	Board Member

STAFF

Helen Laiman Poon (up to June, 2005)	Executive Director
Andy Mark (from Nov 1, 2006 to Feb 3, 2006)	Executive Director
Barnett Chow	Youth Coordinator
Teresa Ng	Accountant Consultant
Alena Li	HWA Coordinator
Shall Shao	Senior's Income Security Project Coordinator
Dora Yeung	Breaking the Cycle of Violence Coordinator
Irene Ho	Student Intern

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The Laidlaw Foundation
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