

加拿大溫哥華 中華會館 一九〇六年成立

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER

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To Mayor and Council

The Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA), which for over a century has represented the interests of its broad array of member societies and associations in Chinatown and throughout the historical Chinese Canadian community of Vancouver, has been engaged with the City of Vancouver throughout the reconciliation process that took place through the Historical Discrimination against Chinese (HDC) Peoples Advisory Committee. As part of that process, Vancouver City Council voted unanimously on October 31, 2017, to adopt the recommendations of the HDC advisory committee, including a firm commitment to develop a **Living Heritage & Cultural Assets Management Plan** to support the UNESCO process and guide future development. A key component of this recommendation was that the impact of development on Chinatown in neighboring areas be given priority consideration.

In particular, the building of the Georgia Viaducts in 1969 as the first stage of a downtown freeway system, and the unilateral appropriation of land leading to the dislocation of Chinatown businesses and residents, was one of the signature episodes in a long history of exclusion and removal of Chinese Canadians in Vancouver. The CBA supported the removal of the Viaducts three years ago because of the symbolic importance of this history of dislocation, with the understanding that some form of substantive reconciliation would take place, and that Chinatown's needs would be met through the creation of value from the development of city land created by the Viaducts removal.

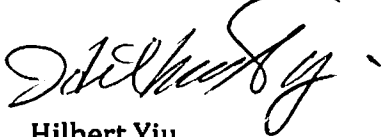
We ask on behalf of the Chinese Canadian community that will be the recipient of the formal apology from Mayor and Council in April 2018 that as a substantive gesture of atonement for the losses suffered by Chinatown with the building of the Viaducts, that a **"Reconciliation Trust"** or similar public authority be created to partner with the City of Vancouver in developing the **two blocks west of Main Street** all the way to the present-day Pacific Boulevard that was expropriated in order to build the Viaducts, along with a new program of activities for the benefit of Chinatown residents (in particular seniors) of the block of park space west of Quebec Street between Union and Keefer that is presently a sports playing field. As a City of Reconciliation that has committed to acknowledging the wrongs of the past, this substantive act of reconciliation by the City of Vancouver would symbolize in the decades to come a genuine act that will transform Chinatown into a place of pride and memory-making for all Vancouverites.

The CBA recognizes that all of the land in question is the unceded, traditional territory of the First Nations who have lived continuously here for thousands of years. We acknowledge the harm to Musqueam, Tsleil-waututh, and Squamish First Nations that the appropriation of their territories has wrought. Because of the long history of mutual respect and engagement between Chinese migrants and the indigenous peoples of British Columbia, we support the ongoing reconciliation process with our host First Nations.

The CBA also recognizes the harm that the building of the Georgia Viaducts did to the black community of Hogan's Alley, and we fully support their process of reconciliation and the discussions that they have had over the last year in regards to the block of land **east of Main Street along Union**. We look forward to working in parallel with them in a way that honours the losses suffered historically because of racism and discrimination against both the black community and that of Chinatown. As their process of reconciliation took place in direct consultation with the Northeast False Creek (NEFC) planning team, we understand that the process of reconciliation for the CBA and Chinatown has been taking place primarily over the last two years through the HDC advisory committee process, upon which the CBA has multiple representatives.

As detailed in our letter to Council for its January 31, 2018 consideration of the NEFC plan, we believe that public land taken from Chinatown and Hogan's Alley should not be sold or leased to a developer for private commercial gain, but request that a legal authority and/or trust structure be created over the next six months, with statutory and regulatory power granted by City Council to oversee the long term land use, development, and management of these two blocks for the public good of Chinatown. We are not willing to settle for a one time consultation on the future of these lands, but to enter into a collaborative partnership with the City of Vancouver for the long term as a means of creating a management plan for the area, achieving UNESCO World Heritage Site designation, and managing and maintaining the Vancouver Chinatown area as a distinctive historical heritage area for the benefit of all of Vancouver.

On behalf of its members societies and associations,



Hilbert Yiu
President
Chinese Benevolent Association