



Press Kit

“Chinese Canadian Stories: Uncommon Stories from a Common Past”

Press Conference: Monday, August 9th, 2010, 10 am

Location:

UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, Lillooet Room
1961 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C.

Dear distinguished members of the Media,

Included in this press kit for your perusal include:

- 1) A description of the UBC CHRP Project
- 2) A Student Spotlight on CHRP research assistant Jennifer Yip
- 3) Video clip
- 4) Photos
- 5) A list and brief descriptions of our community partners and workshop sponsors

For an expanded version of the press kit and more information about the August 9th press conference and the CHRP workshop please visit our website: www.chinesecanadian.ubc.ca

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Project Background

The “Chinese Canadian Stories: Uncommon Histories from a Common Past” web portal is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary project led by the University of British Columbia. Funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), the project will serve as a valuable mechanism of communication and collaboration between UBC, SFU, community partners and students.

For more than 200 years, migrants of Chinese heritage have traveled to Canada to live, to work, and to raise their families. They have come at different times and from different places in China and throughout the world. Many have called a variety of places home before coming to Canada, but once here, they formed vibrant communities that have significantly shaped Canadian society.

Until now, there has never been a one-stop web portal dedicated to collecting, digital archiving, accessing and distributing information about Chinese Canadian history.

The project involves the coordination of an array of academic units within UBC that are each at the forefront of their fields. It brings together the outstanding expertise and resources of a wide range of UBC campus units and off-campus partners, including local civic institutions, and community non-profit organizations. The initiative aims to create:

- 1) A portal website that will be the first stop for Chinese Canadian history that is multilingual with English and Chinese resources
- 2) A digital archive that deposits and preserves digital material created from partner organizations funded by the CHRP and saves it in a searchable database
- 3) Workshops in the summer of 2010 and 2011 that will be attended by participants from local community organizations and from targeted community organizations across Canada that are receiving CHRP funding. These workshops, along with select community engagement events across the nation, will also help promote the process of digital preservation and collection and share what occurred at the summer workshops.
- 4) Promotion of Grade 5-12 classroom use of both the portal website and the digital materials through the creation of learning resources and teaching materials that will use CHRP created materials, embedding the material within a rethinking of the role of Chinese and First Nations peoples in the building of the CPR and in building Canada. The project aims to print 500 copies of teaching guides and downloadable web resources that can be accessed for free at the UBC website.
- 5) Virtual experiences that will appear in different forms on the portal website and within portable interactive kiosks, to be launched in early 2012.

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This project was made possible through funding from the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), part of the Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch. The CHRP program funds community-based commemorative and educational projects that provide recognition of the experiences of ethno-cultural communities affected by historical wartime measures and/or immigration restrictions applied in Canada, and that promote these communities' contributions to building Canada.





二零一零年 八月六日

聯邦政府撥款90萬資助卑詩大學設立加國華人歷史網站《加華紀事》

卑詩大學（卑大）獲聯邦政府《社區歷史認知項目》撥款90萬加元，成立全國首個綜合性加國華人歷史網站《加華紀事》，藉此推動卑大與社區人士之間的緊密交流。網站將收藏史的學生和社區人士使用。網站內容更包括經卑大數碼化的96,000項加國政府人頭稅紀錄。

該網站預計於2012年春季以中英語推出。透過此項目之撥款，卑大希望鼓勵更多學生參與華人歷史研究工作，包括口述歷史、人頭稅和排華移民法案等題目。

項目負責人卑大歷史系副教授余全毅博士表示，中國移民於兩個多世紀以前來到卑詩省，他們更在歐洲移民抵達之先已經與原住民頻繁交流。換句話說，華人與歐洲移民、原住民等同樣為加拿大立國做出一定程度的貢獻。我們希望通過此項目重塑加拿大人對歷史的認識，喚醒這些被遺忘和忽略的歷史事件。

本項目特別鼓勵年輕一代關心加國先賢的故事，其中多項研究工作將由卑大學生負責。余博士補充，通過學生的研究工作，我們發現年輕人與家庭成員進行口述歷史訪談過後都能因而覺悟。學生們表示他們不但更了解自己，而且更懂得欣賞早期先賢所付出的犧牲。

此外，項目內容包括建立一個中央數據庫保存珍貴華人歷史資料、提供5-12年級的學習教材、製作多個互動式電子亭於渥太華，蒙特利爾，多倫多和坎盧普斯等巡迴展示。卑大正在組織兩個夏季座談會促進與其他《社區歷史認知項目》基金獲得者之交流，首輪座談會將於8月10-13日於卑大進行。

本項目將與多個僑社及西門菲沙大學合作，更是有史以來擁有最多校內單位參與的卑大項目，包括：卑大圖書館、Irving K. Barber Learning Centre、卑大檔案館、古籍善本和特藏館、亞洲圖書館、卑大歷史系教學計劃 INSTRCC、Critical Thinking Consortium、Great Northern Way Campus和Learning Exchange。同時，卑大應用科學學院，建築學院，人類學博物館和文學院將參與互動式電子亭製作。



Student Spotlight: Jennifer Yip, *CHRP Research Assistant*



I am a Chinese Canadian who comes from a family with a history of migration to Canada. Despite this, and even growing up in Vancouver with many other Chinese Canadians, I felt disconnected from my heritage. Neither my family nor my school curriculum helped me explore what it meant to be Chinese Canadian. My family thought their stories of migration and lives in Canada were insignificant. In my social studies class, I remember spending only a week on Chinese Canadian history. Even as I listened to the teacher talk about the Chinese labourers who worked on the Canadian Pacific Railway, I knew there was something missing.

To compensate, when I entered the University of British Columbia, I was determined to explore my cultural background. I studied History and Asian Studies, with an intense focus on Chinese history and literature. I even spent a year learning Mandarin in Taiwan, in spite of the fact that my family is Cantonese. Yet, little of my studies connected me with what I really searching for: something Chinese Canadian.

In my fourth year of university, I finally started to find the stories that I had been searching for. That year, I took a history class about Asian migration to Canada. It was through this course that I and another student, Alejandro Yoshizawa, made a film about Vancouver's Chinatown. Graciously funded by the CHRP, our film not only told the story of Chinatown through its buildings, it also validated the role of Chinese Canadians through its use of oral histories. Through the creation of this film, I finally saw how my family, and even I have had a hand in shaping Canadian history.

Through my engagement with CHRP, such as creating a film about Vancouver's Chinatown, and organizing various community-based workshops, I have had the opportunity to help recover some of the lost stories of our Canadian past. But I am not alone, as over the past 7 years, over 1000 other students have also undertaken a similar journey recovering our Chinese Canadian stories. And I believe that all of us, as today's youth and tomorrow's leaders, have a crucial role to play in rethinking our history for the past, present, and future. Heading towards our 150th year as a nation, I hope that what we as Canadian students have accomplished so far in telling and recovering the stories of Chinese Canadians serves just as a starting point for what is to come.

Video Clip: Footage from *Chinatown Past, Present, and Future*

Produced by Jennifer Yip and Alejandro Yoshizawa, students, UBC Department of History

<http://vimeo.com/13900276>



Photos: The Faces of Our Stories



Title: Chinese Hospital Clinic

Credits: University of British Columbia Library, Chung Collection, [[EX-5-10](#)]

Link for larger/higher resolution photo:

http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/coll0803-7&CISOPTR=16451&CISOBX=1&REC=3



Title: Chinese Free Masons, Kelowna, B.C.

Credits: University of British Columbia Library, Chung Collection, [[CC-PH-00343](#)]

Link for larger/higher resolution photo:

http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/coll0803-7&CISOPTR=381&CISOBX=1&REC=12



Title: Bantam boys rugby team, possibly from a Vancouver high school

Photo Credits: University of British Columbia Library, Chung Collection [[CC-PH-02256](#)]

Link for larger/higher resolution photo:

http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/coll0803-7&CISOPTR=14585&CISOBX=1&REC=3



Title: Strathcona Elementary School kindergarten class portrait

Photo Credit: University of British Columbia Library, Chung Collection [[CC-PH-00334](#)]

Link for larger/higher resolution photo:

http://digitalcollections.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/coll0803-7&CISOPTR=375&CISOBX=1&REC=10

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Title: Students interviewing restaurant owner

Photo Credits: Screenshot from INSTRCC promotion video

For larger/higher resolution photo, please contact:

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Title: Students in a class lecture

Photo Credits: Screenshot from INSTRCC promotion video

For larger/higher resolution photo, please contact:

Denise Fong <denise.fong@ubc.ca>



Title: Elementary School students learning to use chopsticks

Photo Credits: Anna Chen (2010)

For larger/higher resolution photo, please contact:

Denise Fong <denise.fong@ubc.ca>



Campus Partners

The project is a collaboration between the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and various campus and community-wide partners, led by project lead, Henry Yu, Associate Professor, Department of History and Principal pro term, St. John's College at UBC. Partners in this project include various campus units, community non-profit organizations, local civic institutions, and the local Chinese media.



Simon Fraser University

The Simon Fraser University (SFU) Library is very pleased to be participating in the CHRP-funded Chinese Head Tax Project. Staff from the SFU Library's Systems Division and Digitization Centre have extensive experience with similar projects such as the *Multicultural Canada* website, which now has over 1.3 million images, including newspapers, photographs, documents, and oral histories.



UBC Irving K Barber Learning Centre

Since opening in spring 2008, the Irving K Barber Learning Centre has captivated students, faculty and visitors with its innovative design and service-rich environment. The Learning Centre is dedicated to the University's academic and community engagement missions, working to support academic excellence and cultivate a sense of community here on campus through space, services, and programming, as well as creating and supporting opportunities for engagement with diverse BC communities.



UBC INSTRCC (INitiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian studies)

INSTRCC (Initiative for Student Teaching and Research in Chinese Canadian studies) was created to engage and empower students to conduct crucial and groundbreaking community-based research in Asian Canadian history relevant to the Asian Canadian community.



UBC Learning Exchange

In partnership with UBC courses offered through the Faculty of Applied Science, the Faculty of Arts, the Museum of Anthropology, and the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, the UBC-CLI is overseeing a cross-disciplinary CSL partnership in which students, staff, and instructors from each of these divisions will be conceptualizing, designing, and building mobile units for the display of the material collected through the Chinese Canadian History Project (CCHP).

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UBC Asian Library

2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the Asian Library. From its inception with the amassing of Chinese and Japanese classics in humanities to being the very place that users at UBC and beyond turn to for information on Asia, Asian Library has filled its shelves, physical and virtual with more than 580,000 items and delivered information on multiple platforms that is rich with databases, web sites, blogs, videos, images, audios and much more. Holdings are in nine languages including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Indonesian. The crown jewels of the collection are the renowned Chinese and Japanese rare books. The on-going plan to repurpose the library space and facilities will position the library to better serve the changing needs of the users.



UBC Museum of Anthropology

The Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia is world-renowned for its collections, research, teaching, public programs, and community connections. It is also acclaimed for its spectacular architecture and unique setting on the cliffs of Point Grey.



The Critical Thinking Consortium

The Critical Thinking Consortium—*TC²*— is a non-profit association of 60 school districts, post-secondary institutions and teacher organizations working to support critical thinking from kindergarten to graduate school. Over the last fifteen years, this group, whose offices are at UBC, has worked with 65,000 educators to embed critical thinking into their teaching practices across Canada in the United States, England, Israel, India, Hong Kong, the Caribbean, and Finland.



Great Northern Way Campus

The Masters of Digital Media Program is a ground-breaking Master's degree in entertainment technology and digital media. This powerhouse graduate program combines industry-facing curriculum, real-world projects and a four month internship. The degree is jointly awarded by the four major post-secondary institutions in British Columbia: the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Emily Carr University of Art + Design and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.



- UBC eIRcle**
- UBC Rare Books & Special Collections**
- UBC Department of History**
- UBC Faculty of Applied Science**
- UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture**
- UBC Faculty of Arts**
- UBC Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy**