Our Chosen Land 100 Years of Development of the Chinese Community in Calgary
To Our Forefathers, Who Blazed The Trail

Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre
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Preface

Our Chosen Land - 100 years of development of the Chinese community in Calgary exhibition is dedicated to the early Chinese immigrants who first settled in Calgary more than 100 years ago. It is also a tribute to the Calgary Centennial Celebration, as the Chinese community has contributed to the development of Calgary since its inception.

The exhibition is divided into two main parts. "The History of Chinese Canadians in Canada" explores the background of the Chinese immigrants to Canada and the general conditions they experienced, while the "The Evolution of the Chinese Community in Calgary" focuses mainly on the development of Calgary's Chinatown.

Although the exhibition follows a chronology of events from 1858 to the present, much of the emphasis is on the early years. The history of Chinese in Canada can generally be divided into five periods:

1. 1858 to 1885 Initial Arrival
2. 1885 to 1923 The Chinese Immigration Act and the Head Tax
3. 1923 to 1946 The Era of Exclusion - The Dark Age in the History of Chinese Immigrant to Canada.
4. 1946 to 1967 Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and Family Unification
5. 1967 to present Prosperity Under a New Environment

It is our hope that through this exhibition, we will all have a better understanding of the history of Chinese people in Canada, their heritage, their unique culture and above all their immense contributions to Canada in spite of the injustices, hostilities and hardships they faced.

The Editorial Team
序言

『百年滄桑 - 卡城華人百年史』 展覽會是獻給在一百多年前移居卡城
的早期移民的。同時亦為慶祝卡城建市百年紀念，作爲紀念華人民社
區對
卡城發展的貢獻。

此展覽主要分爲兩部分。第一部分敘述華人在加拿大的歷史，集中記述
華人移民的背景及其概況；第二部分則敘述卡城華埠的歷史，特別注
重唐人街的發展。

雖然此展覽由一一五八年開始順序記述至今，但篇幅著重於早年的描
述，因其迥異於今日。華人移民加拿大主要分爲五個階段：

1. 1858 - 1885 自由入境時期
2. 1885 - 1923 華人移民條例及人頭稅的實施
3. 1923 - 1946 被驅逐的時代 - 華人移加的黑暗期
4. 1946 - 1967 平反華人受歧視的時期
5. 1967 - 現今 新環境下的繁榮

我們希望透過此次展覽，令大家對華人在加拿大的歷史、傳統及其實獨特
的文化有更透徹的了解。同時亦令大家明白到華人雖然面對很多不公
平、歧視及困苦，但仍對加拿大有很大的貢獻。

編輯小組
The History of Chinese Canadians In Canada

1858-1884: Period of Free Entry

Coming to Canada

Canada has been enriched by one of the most colorful cultures in the world - the culture of China.

During the nineteenth century there two waves of Chinese immigration into Canada. The first occurred during the Fraser River gold rush of 1858. In June of 1858, Hop Kee & Co. of San Francisco agreed to pay shipping agent Allan Lowe $3,500 to bring 300 Chinese and 50 tons of merchandise to Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island, plus an extra twenty dollars for each additional passenger. Throughout the summer and fall, scores of Chinese arrived at Victoria from California, while later, others came directly from Guangdong.

By the early 1860s there were about 7,000 Chinese in B.C., the majority working in the gold mines. Chinese workers were poorly paid, receiving meager daily wages, most of which went to paying for room and board.

The second wave of Chinese immigration to Canada was in the 1880s when Chinese laborers were recruited to build the British Columbia sections of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Andrew Onderdonk, the contractor responsible for the project, arranged for over 18,000 Chinese men to come to Canada. Although some of these workers came from the United States, most arrived directly from China aboard chartered ships.

Glenbow Archives NA-387-27

Chinese section men on hand cars, CP Railway (1886)

The lives of the Chinese laborers were miserable. An estimated 1,500 Chinese died from hardship, disease and exposure during the construction of the railway; almost four Chinese perished for every mile of the Canadian Pacific Railway constructed.

Where the Original Immigrants Came From

Most Chinese immigrants to Canada came from an area in the southern coastal province of Guangdong called Siyi, or the four counties (Taishan, Kaiping, Xinhui and Enping), Taishansese, the most distinctive sub-dialect of Cantonese, is spoken in these four adjacent counties. Of the immigrants from Siyi, the Taishan people outnumbered those from all other counties. Also significant in terms of emigration to Canada is the region called Sanyi (the Three Counties). The region

Glenbow Archives NA-3489-26

Grand Trunk Pacific Railway car in British Columbia
進入加拿大

多姿多彩的中華文化給加拿大這片土地增添了不少文化色彩。

十九世紀中葉，有兩股華人移民潮湧至加拿大。第一次是在一八五八年在卑詩省的菲沙河谷淘金熱時期。美國三藩市的合記公司(Hopkee & Co)答允付給 Alan Lowe 船務代理公司三千五百元，用以連接三百名華工以及五十噸貨物到達溫哥華島的維多利亞。額外的乘客則每名加付二十元。從此，不少華人由美國的加利福尼亞州進入加拿大。其後一些華人更直接從中國廣東省來。

在一八六零年代早期，卑詩省華人約有七千名，大部分是在金礦工作的。從他們的微薄酬勞，大部份用於食宿費用。

第二次的華人移民潮發生在一八八零年代。當時加拿大的政府計劃修建一條橫貫東西的太平洋鐵路，需要大量華工幫助築路。於是太平洋鐵路築築商翁得丹克(Andrew Onderdonk)，徵募了一萬八千多名華工來加。其中一部份華人從美國進入，但大部分都是直接

Glenbow Archives NA-920-19

CPR tracks from station in Calgary (1900 - 1915)

從中國乘坐專船來的。

當時的築鐵華工生活非常艱苦，根據估計，當時死於勞苦、疾病與戰爭的築路華工大約有一千五百人，約建造每一英哩的 CP 線路，便有四名華工喪生。

早期的華人移民來自什麼地方？

大多數的早期移民來自中國南方沿海的廣東省四邑：台山、開平、新會及恩平。台山話是他們的主要方言，在早期移民中，台山人的人數也最多。其次，早期的移民也有來自三邑的，包括順德、南海和番禺，他們所說的方言接近廣州話。

![Source areas of Chinese immigrants (1880s)](image)

早期華人移民的來源地 (一八八零年代)
surrounds Guangzhou and consists of three adjacent counties: Shunde, Nanhai and Panyu. Their dialects are very similar to the Cantonese dialect.

Reasons for Coming to Canada

In the nineteenth century massive problems struck China. Overpopulation (between 1787 and 1850 Guangdong’s population almost doubled from sixteen to twenty-eight million) made farmland scarce, and the land owners charged their peasant-tenants very high rents. Poverty and hunger increased dramatically. Wage-labor jobs became scarce after China’s defeat in the First Opium War (1839-1842) when four new treaty ports were opened, diverting trade away from Guangdong, and putting many people out of work. Lower priced foreign manufactured goods also undercut the native Chinese product industry.

Law and order broke down when the Taiping Rebellion swept through China between 1850 and 1864. Over 20 million people were killed (a horrifically high number when compared to Canada’s present population of 30 million) and the ongoing warfare prevented farmers from maintaining their fields and harvests. Banditry and piracy grew under a weakened central government, and peasants also faced natural disasters such as floods and droughts. These crises forced many Guangdong residents to emigrate, with the intention of eventually returning.

Completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in late 1885 came at the same time an economic depression hit British Columbia. Thousands of Chinese were left unemployed. They moved eastward for survival, some coming to Alberta as ranch cooks, kitchen help, or to open cafés and laundries, while others continued on to Montreal and Toronto.

The first major law limiting Chinese immigration, the Dominion Immigration Act of 1885, was enacted as the railroad neared completion. For years there had been strident calls from white British Columbians to restrict the entry of the Chinese who were accused of driving out white laborers and pushing down wages because they worked at lower rates.

Under this Act, Chinese entering Canada were required to pay a head tax of $50, and no inbound ship could carry more than one Chinese per fifty tons. The tax was raised to $100 in 1900 and increased to $500 in 1903. A total of 24 million was paid out by the Chinese for the Head Tax from 1885 to 1923. No other immigrant group was ever forced to pay such a fee to enter Canada.

Many white Canadians thought the head tax insufficient, and in scattered locations across the country, riots and disturbances heralded a growing discontent with immigration.
其次，早期的移民也有来自三邑的，包括顺德、南海和番禺，他们所说的方言接近广州话。

華人移民加拿大的原因：

十九世纪的中國，面临重重困难。由于人口激增，（例如廣東省的人口，在一七八七年到一八五零年的六十三年內，由一千六百万激增至二千八百萬，接近二倍），因而耕地相对地减少。另一方面，地主又向耕户苛收地租。貧苦與飢餓遂有增無減。

一八三九年至一八四二年狼片戰爭後中國益惡窮困，工作機會越來越少。由於戰敗，中國被迫開放四個新港口，貿易被分散，致廣東省的失業率快速增多。舶來製品的價格較低，更加打擊本地的貨物生產。

一八五零年至一八六四年的太平天國之亂席捲全國，動揺了生產，秩序大亂，天災人禍，民不聊生。死於戰亂的人數逾二千萬，這許多因素使很多廣東省的居民設法遷徙外地，但莫不盼望有重返故鄉的一天。

1885-1923：加拿大政府施行華人移民條例和人頭稅

一八八五年底，橫貫加拿大的太平洋鐵路終於竣工。與此同時，華僑們也發生嚴重的經濟蕭條，失業的華人數以千計，他們在華僑們難以謀生，只好再涉東移，有些留在亞伯達省的牧場當華工，自開洗衣店或咖啡店，有些則繼續東行移往多倫多和蒙特利爾（滿地可）。

限制華人移民的第一個條例實行於一八八五年底，那是太平洋鐵路接近完工的時候。在C P鐵路建造期間，許多白人工人經常發出怨言，向當局投訴，指責華工把工資拉低了，因為華工們接受較低的工資。
policies. Between 1875 and 1923, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia passed numerous laws against the Chinese. For example, Chinese were prohibited from being hired on public works projects in 1897. The 1920 provincial Election Act reaffirmed that all Chinese were disqualified from voting.

from $50 in 1885, to $100 in 1900, and finally to $500 in 1904. With continued protests and agitation against Chinese immigration, a Chinese exclusion law was enacted in 1923 which barred the entry of all Chinese.

This segment covers a period of sixty-five years from 1858 to 1923, in which the Chinese were intensively subjected to legislative controls.

Summary of Pre-1923 Period

The Chinese first came to Canada in 1858 to work in the gold mines of the Fraser Valley. However, it was not until the construction of the CPR that there was large scale Chinese immigration. Once the railway was completed, successive legislative regulations and laws were enacted with the purpose of discouraging Chinese immigration. The Head Tax imposed on the Chinese was increased...
在限制华人移民条例之下，凡进入加拿大的华人都要缴纳人头税五十元，而且限制入境船隻每五十噸载重量只能载一华人。人头税随逐年逐增加，一九零零年增至一百元，一九零三年又加至五百元。自一八八五年至一九二三年，华人所缴纳的人头税共约二千四百万元，而来自其他国家的移民则完全不必缴纳此税。

但许多加拿大白人认为华人缴纳人头税不夠，他们蓄意慘生事端，对散处各地的华人社区进行破坏与迫害。在一八七五年至一九二三年间，卑詩省政府在省议会中通过了許多不利于华人移民的条例。例如一八九七年，不准僱用华人从事公共建设。一九零零年重申不准华人移民拥有选举权等。

1923年前华人移民概要：

华人移民最早可追溯到一八五八年在菲沙河淘金时期，但人数并不多。到了建造CP铁路时期，才有大量移
1923-1946:
Era of Exclusion-Dark Age in the
History of Chinese Immigration to
Canada

The climax of anti-Chinese feelings came in 1923 when the House of Commons introduced the Chinese Immigration Bill. Under this Act, people of Chinese origin or descent were prohibited from coming into Canada except for consular officials, children born in Canada, merchants, and university students. Every Chinese in Canada had to register with the Ministry of Immigration and Colonization before he left the country and was permitted to leave Canada for two years; if he did not return to Canada within two years, he would not be allowed back in. The Act virtually halted Chinese immigration.

The Chinese Immigration Act also created a bachelor's community. Many married Chinese men, separated from their wives and children, could not lead a normal family life in Canada. The head tax made it impossible for an average worker to be able to afford the passage money and the head tax for his wife and other family members. A Chinese immigrant who left China as a teenager often returned to get married in his early 20s. He then came back to Canada where he would continue to work, leaving family behind. He might visit his family once or twice later to have children, but the Chinese Immigration Act left him little hope of bringing his family to Canada. He could only send money to support them.

1947-1967:
Repeal of Chinese Exclusion Act

1947 was a major turning point in Chinese-Canadian history. During World War II, Chinese was Canada's ally and many Chinese-Canadians contributed to the war effort. Five hundred Canadian-born Chinese volunteered to fight in the Pacific War and the Chinese community in Victoria bought 20% of all Canadian Victory Bonds, nearly $10 million worth.

The change from an inhospitable to a more accepting attitude towards Chinese Canadians in such a short time was overwhelming. In 1947, the Parliament of Canada had repealed the Chinese Immigration Act, ending a 24-year ban on
1923-1946
被逐時代-華人移加的黑暗

在一九二三年，當下議院提交華人移民的新法案時，排華情緒到達了頂點。在這個法案下，華人被禁止進入加拿大，唯有使領人員、在加出生的小孩、商人及大學留學生等除外。此外，華人離加時必須向移民局登記，同時只准離境兩年，否則將被取消入境資格。這個法案基本上杜絕了華人的移居。

1947-1967
平反華人受歧視的時期

一九四七年是加拿大華人歷史上的一個轉捩點。在第二次世界大戰，中國是加拿大的盟友，很多加拿大華人都被上戰衣，為加效力。其中太平洋戰爭一役便有五百多名加華人出生華人自願參戰。戰後，政府發行的勝利債券，百份之卅亦由維多利亞的華人所認購，總值達一千萬加元。

一九四七年，國會取消了『管制華人移加』的法案，結束了長達二十四年的黑暗期，社會對華人的態度亦漸改變。同年卑詩省的華人終於獲得選舉權。

但與其他種族比較，華人移民仍受到很大的制肘。如華人抵加申請妻子及未婚子女來加團聚，而其他來自歐洲及美國的移民則不受任何限制。直到一九
Chinese immigration to Canada. The Chinese in British Columbia were finally allowed to vote in 1947.

The Canadian government did not lift all restrictions on Chinese immigration, however, as only the spouses and minor unmarried children of Chinese-Canadians were allowed to immigrate. At the same time, there was relatively free immigration to Europe and the United States. It was not until 1967 when Canada adopted a universal point system of assessing potential immigrants. Chinese were admitted under the same criteria as people of other origins.

1967-Present:
Current Contemporary Immigration

As a result of changing immigration policies, the Chinese population increased after 1967. After a century of restrictions, Chinese began to be recognized as part and parcel of life in Canada. However, they still faced many social obstacles. In 1979, reacting to the public affairs program, W5, which depicted Chinese students as foreigners taking away university places from white Canadians, Chinese-Canadians across the country demonstrated against the Canadian Television network, which finally issued a public apology. In 1984, the increase in Chinese population in Scarborough, Ontario, led to a racially biased public outcry against the Chinese, blaming them as the cause of parking and traffic problems in the area.

Recently, immigration policy was changed to accommodate business immigrants. Wealthy formed Hong Kong residents moving to affluent west side neighborhoods in Vancouver, have experienced hostility towards the luxury and glamour of their mansion-style homes. Yet the Hong Kong immigrants have brought substantial capital to Canada; $658 million in 1990 alone from just 455 entrepreneur immigrants. The immigrants from Hong Kong have injected a huge amount of capital into housing and business developments in Canada, especially in British Columbia.

Historical facts suggest that the road towards equality had been hazardous. After over a century of being in Canada, Chinese Canadians were eventually being accepted by all levels of society as equals. The Chinese had moved into a new era. They are being treated equally, and are expected to act and participate in the shaping of Canada. Canada is still a very young and growing country. By participating actively Chinese Canadians can help mould a new and unique Canadian identity based on many ethnic cultures. This is a challenge not only for Chinese but also for all cultural groups. By joining together we can create a unique Canadian culture and make Canada a land of hope.
其次，早期的移民也有來自三邑的，包括順德、南海和番禺，他們所說的方言接近廣州話。

華人移民加拿大的原因：

十九世紀的中國，面臨重重困難。由於人口激增，（例如廣東省的人口，在一七八七年到一八五零年の六十三年內，由一千六百萬激增至二千八百萬，接近二倍），因而農耕地相對地減少。另一方面，地主又向耕戶苛收地租。貧農與飢餓遂有增無減。

一八二九年至一八四二年鴉片戰爭後中國益趨貧困，工作機會越來越少。由於戰敗，中國被迫開放四個新港口，貿易被分散，致廣東省的失業率快速增多。舶來製造品的價格較低，更加打擊本地的貨物生產。

一八五零年至一八六四年的太平天國之亂席捲全國，妨礙了生產，秩序大亂。天災人禍，民不聊生。死於戰亂的人數逾二千萬。這許多因素使很多廣東省的居民設法遷徙外地，但莫不盼望有重返故鄉的一天。

1885-1923 : 加拿大政府施華人移民條例和人頭稅

一八八五年底，橫貫加拿大的太平洋鐵路終於竣工。與此同時，華人卻發生嚴重的經濟蕭條，失業的華人數以千計。他們在卑詩省難以謀生，只好跋涉東移，有些留在亞伯達省的牧場內當廚子，自開洗衣店或咖啡店，有些則繼續東行移往多倫多和蒙特利爾（滿地可）。

限制華人移民的第一個條例實行於一八八五年底，那是太平洋鐵路接近完工的時候。在CP鐵路建造期間，許多白人勞工經常發出怨言，向當局投訴，指責華工把工資拉低了，因爲華工們接受較低的工酬。
The Evolution of the Chinese Community in Calgary

Chinatown Development

Calgary Pioneers from the Orient

There is no record of the arrival of the first Chinese in Calgary. It appears, however, the Chinese pioneers were in the Calgary area by early 1885. Unlike the Chinese in British Columbia, the Chinese on the prairies were not associated with gold mining, coal mining or railway construction. These pioneer Chinese are believed to have found jobs on nearby cattle ranches, worked as cooks, houseboys or opened up their own businesses, especially laundries. In 1888 several Chinese laundries had been operating for some time in Calgary.

1892 Smallpox Riot

In 1892, it became dramatically clear that the Chinese were not welcome residents of Calgary. In June, a Chinese working at a laundry contracted smallpox after a visit to Vancouver several weeks earlier. When he fell ill, he was attended to by friends, but the building and all its contents were burned by civic authorities, and all its occupants were quarantined in an empty shack outside town.

Nice Chinese fell ill, and three died later. The town’s citizen alleged that the disease was brought by the Chinese and spread by their unhygienic living conditions.

When the four Chinese in quarantine were released on August 2, a mob of over 300 men smashed the doors and windows of all the Chinese laundries to drive the Chinese out of town. The mob then ransacked the Chinese district, destroying property, assaulting Chinese residents and looting. The police were not brought until the riot had finished its rampage.

The Chinese community was badly shaken up by the violence and many spent the next few nights at the Mounted Police barracks or at the homes of clergymen. The North West Mounted Police patrolled the town for three weeks to protect Chinese Calgarians against any further attack.

“Chinatown has been revitalized more in Calgary than anywhere else in North America. No other Chinatown has these things happening.”

The First Chinatown

Calgary’s first Chinatown, established in the early 1890s, was located on the corner of Centre Street South and Ninth Avenue East, across from the Canadian Pacific Railway station. By 1900, it consisted of two restaurants, a hand laundry, two groceries and a twenty-bed rooming house. Behind one restaurant was a community room, where Chinese gathered to socialize.

After 1901, increasing number of Chinese arrived in Calgary and a larger Chinatown was required. The first Chinatown could not expand, due to its restricted location, so a second Chinatown was born.

The Second Chinatown

In 1901, Dr. J.C. Herdman, the minister of Knox Presbyterian Church, tried in vain to get a room for mission work in Chinatown. Local people did not support the idea of introducing
卡城華埠的發展

卡城華人街的歷史

關於第一位華人來到卡城的情況，沒有確實的記錄。不過似乎早在一八八五年，已有華人在卡城活動。他們與在卑詩省從事金礦、煤礦或鐵路建築的華工不同，在卡城聚居的華人多在牧場內當廚師、家僕，或經營生意，其中尤以經營洗衣店為主。在一八八八年，已有幾間華人經營的洗衣店在卡城作業多時了。

1892年的天花暴亂

一八九二年發生了一件事情，証明了華人在卡城是不受歡迎的居民。六月，一個剛從溫哥華回來數星期的洗衣工人患了天花，當局竟下令燒燬整間洗衣店並將洗衣店內居住的人囚禁在城外，以防傳染。先後有九名華人染病，其中三人不治，市民將所有責任歸咎於華人，認為天花係彼等帶來，及因不衛生的環境而傳播。

八月二日，當政府釋放四名曾遭防役隔離的華人時，三百多名白人搗毀所有華人的洗衣店，企圖將華人逐出卡城。暴徒隨後劫掠華人聚居處，破壞華人住宅及毆打華人。當警察出動鎮壓時，白人暴徒已經盡情地癡泄。

第一個唐人街

卡城的第一個唐人街誕生於一八九零年代初期，位於中央街南與第九大道東南交匯處。一九零零年，它已擁有兩間餐館、一間洗衣店、兩間雜貨店及一座可容納二十個床位的宿舍，還有一間社區室，作爲華人社交活動之處。

自一九零零年開始，華人到達卡城的數目大增，需要有一個更大的唐人街。第一個唐人街基於位置上的限制，不能有所擴展，因而有第二個唐人街的形成。

Glenbow Archives NA-3766-17

Chinese feast at a funeral in Vancouver, BC (1900)

第一個華人葬禮

European Masonic emblem on tombstone in Chinese cemetery, Calgary

在卡城的華人墓碑

百年滄桑
Christianity to unassimilated Chinese. Mayor Thomas Underwood offered to rent him a small wooden building on 1st Street S.W., near 10th Avenue S.W., at a reduced rate. Reverend Herdman also rented nearby properties to Chinese businessmen, and another Chinatown emerged around the mission. Thus, by 1910, Calgary had two small Chinatowns separated by the railway tracks. The second Chinatown consisted of twelve businesses, several community rooms and rooming facilities, established around the Chinese Mission on 10th Avenue S.W., between Centre and Third Streets.

The Third Chinatown (Present Chinatown)

In 1910, Calgary’s second Chinatown was forced to relocate. In June, the Canadian Northern Railway announced it proposed route into the city and proposed construction of a hotel-depot near the second Chinatown site. Property values in the two Chinatowns soared, and the non-Chinese owners of the real estate concerned sold their holdings and expelled the Chinese. Because of this expulsion, several wealthy Chinese decided to buy their own property elsewhere for a new Chinatown. This necessity to move laid the foundations for the present-day Chinatown.

For $18,000, a group of Chinese bought land on Centre Street at 2nd Avenue S.E. For another $22,000 they built a two-storey brick building [still standing] that had stores on the ground level and living quarters upstairs. The area was considered a ‘cheap dumping ground’ because it was near the dwellings of low income families. Thus, by the early 1910s, the first two Chinatown were gone and the present day Chinatown in Calgary had begun.

Chinatown’s Survival and Expansion

In the mid 1960s, there were direct threats to the existence of Chinatown. City planners came close to demolishing Chinatown. In 1965 a proposal to build an extension to the Bow Trail through Chinatown from east to west threatened to destroy the area. Then, City Hall proposed that major freeways be laid down through the district’s core. Finally, in 1967 a new Centre Street Bridge was recommended - another serious threat to Chinatown. Had the proposal been implemented, Chinatown would have ceased to exist. The Chinatown community demonstrated its resilience by organizing opposition to these proposals. Determined efforts by the community as a whole led to the city agreeing by 1971 to leave Chinatown intact - for the time being.

In 1973 third civic freeway proposal was made public. The community again successfully fought the proposal. In 1974, the city was persuaded to officially designate boundaries for Chinatown. They ran from the riverbank to 4th Avenue S.W. and from 2nd Street S.E. to 2nd Street S.W.. A design brief, calling for the revitalization of Chinatown, was officially approved in 1976.

In 1974 work began on the Harry Hays Building, a major federal government structure occupying a full block of Chinatown. Some 180 Chinatown residents had to be relocated.

In 1976, Oi Kwan Place, a senior citizen’s
residence, was completed. In 1978 construction began on a building owned by Mah Society.

In 1979, Bowside Manor, a federal government subsidized project was completed. At roughly the same time, various other business were started in Chinatown. The boom of the early 1980s brought another threat to Chinatown from developers seeking new lands for downtown office towers. They wanted to have extremely high density buildings that would threaten the integrity and character of this distinctive district.

The autumn of 1982 was a critical time for Calgary’s Chinatown. Under the land-use redesignation proposal as originally presented to City Council by the Ratepayer’s Association, land use in Chinatown would have been rezoned to an unreasonable high density, in effect making Chinatown an extension of the city core. Chinatown would eventually disintegrate and disappear in the process. Strong opposition to such a proposal was mounted by a small group of community minded people to save Chinatown.

Through weekly meetings and continuous negotiations over the course of a year and a half between the Chinese community, the landowners and City officials, an Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) for Chinatown was unanimously accepted by all parties involved in the process. As a result, two major community projects were successfully completed in the ensuing years. A nine million dollar senior housing project, Wah Ying Mansion, was completed in 1988 and a ten million dollar Calgary landmark, the Chinese Cultural Centre, was completed in 1992. Landowners and developers also responded by building new properties to meet the growing needs of a revitalized Chinatown. In just a few short years, the area had turned into one of the cleanest and most orderly developed Chinatowns anywhere.

When a group of community-minded individuals committed themselves to undertake the Chinese Cultural Centre project, they shared a common vision that a properly established cultural centre could help to fulfill the aspirations of their community. Given the opportunity and good leadership, the community could channel its energy and resources to accomplish many meaningful objectives.

The fact that it has taken only eight years to turn the Cultural Centre from pure concept into a magnificent landmark in extremely adverse economic conditions is vivid testimony to courage, confidence, determination and resourcefulness of the Chinese community.
一九七九年，聯邦政府津貼的河濱大廈（Bowside manor）落成。大約在同時期，其他各類的商業在唐人街也開始經營。

一九八零年代早期的繁榮，構成對華埠的另一威脅，當時發展商為了在市中心建築商業大廈，積極尋覓新地點。他們欲興建高標準建築的願望將會毀滅華埠這具特色地區的完整。

一九八二年的秋天是卡城華埠的一個重要時期，根據當時華埠一般地主提議的地方使用法案，華埠被列為超常理密度的地區，使華埠成爲市中心的一部分，這將使華埠的地位及其特色日漸衰退。此項改革華埠的提議被各社團群起反對，力爭保持華埠的原有特色。

經過大約一年半的積極討論及每星期的會議，華埠地區重建計劃終於一致地被華埠的社區代表、地主及市政委員接受。這個決定使兩項重大的工程在數年後得以順利完成。其中一項是在一九八八年落成，耗資九百萬元，專為華埠的人士提供住宿的華英大廈；另一項則是動用一千萬元在一九九二年落成的華文化中心。其後很多地主及發展商也接踵在華埠內興建一些新的建築物，以配合華埠的不斷發展。在短短幾年間，卡城華埠成爲一個極富潔而有規劃的地區。

當一群關心社區利益的人仕立志完成中華文化中心的工程而效力得時候，他們都一致相信這個完善的文化中心將會為華人社區作出巨大的貢獻，及幫助華人社團實踐他們的理想。

在短短八年的光景內，中華文化中心由一個純概念演變成一座具活力、充滿文化特色的建築物，這樣偉大的壯舉足以代表華人社區的勇氣、信心、毅力與才智，實在值得我們華人自豪。
Unemployed single men were granted an allowance of only $1.12 per week, but single non-Chinese received $2.50 per week. Chinese dissatisfaction with discrimination directed to them grew. Their protests were totally ignored.

In 1937, about 80 unemployed Chinese staged a lie-down protest on streetcar tracks, demanding $2.50 per week. Nothing resulted from this. Peaceful sit-down protests continued throughout January. In February, a similar protest turned violent and 13 Chinese were arrested.

The Chinese cause garnered support from other groups, such as Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. They pressed the Chinese case for justice and finally the government raised the relief payment to $2.12 per week, still less than that for non-Chinese.

A substantial change in the general public attitudes toward the Chinese developed during the Second World War. China and Canada were Allied powers, and Canadians were sympathetic to the suffering of the Chinese population under Japanese occupation and aggression. In 1937 a Pan-Alberta Anti-Japanese League was formed, with headquarters in Calgary. From 1937 to 1945 Calgary’s Chinese alone raised over $200,000 for China relief.

After the war, attitude toward Canadian Chinese were much improved. Overt racism had become extremely unpopular because of the Nazis’ racial doctrines, and in 1947 the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed. Many Chinese families in Calgary were reunited.

Increasing acceptance and appreciation of the Chinese was demonstrated, for example, in a Calgary Herald editorial in 1952. "The extent to which the citizens of Chinese ancestry have been assimilated into [our] society accepting many of its forms while never losing touch with the greatness of their own people is a unique and particular chapter in the history of our Republic."

Vancouver were the Chinese National visit to Canada. Sun Yat Seung Tong, Sun was determined to overthrow the

had a price on his head and him from addressing the Orpheum Theatre (Albert St., S.), attending where the Ho Won (Albert Centre Street, S.), and Fung’s grocery, now the (5th Ave. & 12th St., S.). The gathered over a thousand and today Chinese Calgary’s name on a commemorates the anniversary of the final overthrow Sun’s visit, the honghwa was founded in

Standards
Employment and Occupations

工作及職業

Chinese gardeners
园艺工人

Chinese servant in Alberta
亞省一華僑

Chinese restaurant, Lacombe, Alberta
亞省的一間中國餐館內景

Chinese kitchen staff at General Hospital, Calgary (1903-1907)
卡城一間醫院的廚房 (1903-1907)

Wing Chong laundry, High River, Alberta. This laundry was established in 1912 and operated until the early 1970's.
亞省的一間華人洗衣店。此洗衣店建於一九一二年，一直營業至一九七零年代早期結束

Waitress in a Chinese restaurant, Calgary
卡城一間華人營業的接待小姐

Kung Fu demonstration in Calgary Chinatown
卡城唐人街上的功夫表演

Chinese Floats in an Edmonton parade
愛城巡遊遊行中的中國隊員
Employment and Occupations

Cultural barriers and the ongoing discrimination forced most early Chinese immigrants to work at menial jobs.

Many opened laundries during the early 1900s, and until about 1940, a Chinese hand laundry could be found in almost every hamlet and town in Alberta. Chinese restaurants and Chinese grocery stores ranked second and third in terms of Chinese businesses, with Chinese restaurant as the major source of employment.

Chinese had to work very hard to make a living. Restaurants and groceries had to open early in the morning and close late in the evening in order to make a profit. There were no brakes; non-stop work seven days a week. Everybody worked fifteen to eighteen hours a day and received twenty-five to thirty dollars per month. Laundry work was especially wearisome, because it meant the soaking, scrubbing and ironing of clothing solely by hand.

There were a few other occupations available to Chinese, such as hotel workers, laborers, market gardeners and domestic servants. In the countryside, Chinese cook were hired by ranchers.

After 1900 a great number of Chinese in Calgary were employed as domestic servants, catering to the needs of wealthy Calgarians. Paid twenty-five dollars a month, a Chinese houseboy was quick to give courteous service, and generally worked hard.

Formation and Clans of Family Organization

From 1910 to 1930, significant organizations of the Calgary Chinese community were established, such as the Chi Gong Tong, the Chinese National League, the Chinese Public School, and the Mah Society. The Chinese YMCA, known as the Calgary Chinese Mission, was organized in Chinatown as well. It established Canada's first all-Chinese hockey team.

In establishing the structure of their community, Chinese adapted traditional institutions to the Canadian environment. Tongs, mutual aid associations, offered frugal accommodation in rooming houses, help finding jobs, or sustenance when job couldn't be found. The tongs were effective that until the Depression the Chinese community too pride in the fact that not one Chinese-Canadian in Calgary had received charity or been a public charge. Even when unemployed Chinese rarely resorted to accepting relief during the Depression of the 1930s, they continued to rely on the tongs for food and shelter, as the government, for some reason, gave Chinese half the relief money allocated to other Canadians.

Calgary's clan associations, which are a crucial component of community life, are composed of member who have the same family name. Clan associations of today fulfill fewer functions than they did many years ago, but they still play a definite role. Because of the large number of immigrants who have settled in Calgary during the last twenty years, new clan associations have been established. Today there are approximately sixty Chinese organizations in Calgary: various family associations, church groups, athletic clubs, professional and business associations. There are also Chinese schools teaching Cantonese and Mandarin. Annual events such as the
工作及職業

文化的障礙及歧視使大部份華人只能做些低薪工作。一九零零年初期，很多華人祗有經營洗衣店，直到大約一九四零年左右在亞伯特省的每個城市和村莊都有華人經營的洗衣店。其次中國餐館和雜貨店，也是華人受僱用的主要來源。

華人為生活而勤力工作。為了生計，餐館和雜貨店由早上開始營業，直至深夜才休息。每星期工作七天，日以繼夜地工作，沒有任何休息的時間。每人每天工作十至十八小時，而每月薪金只有二十五至三十元。洗衣是一件令人非常疲倦的工作，因為整個過程需要浸、擦和燙，而且全部都是用手來做。

由一九一零年到一九三零年，很多重要的華人社團陸續成立，例如：致公堂、國民黨、華僑公立學校和馬氏公所。中國青年會（也稱為華僑中國傳道會）亦同時在唐人街成立，它更組成了加拿大第一個華人中國冰棍球隊。

華僑加拿大的中國人採用中國傳統的社區結構。堂所、宗親會和同鄉會提供住宿之所，協助僑民及為失業者提供膳食。堂所提供的服務切合華僑的需要。在三十年代初，華僑引以爲榮的就是全市沒有一個華人領取社會救助金或公然乞討。在經濟大蕭條期間，失業的華僑在領取救助時只從政府處領取到白人金額之半數，因而仍依賴堂所提供的膳宿。

此外，華人亦從事其他職業，例如酒店員工、工人、園丁及僕役。在郊外的牧場主人亦多僱華人任廚師。

一九零零年之後，有不少中國人改做僱傭，為富有 的卡加利人服務，月薪約爲二十五元，一般的中國僕人都甚勤奮及任勞任怨。

社會活動是華僑生活的一個重要部份，而宗親會是最基本的組織，今日的堂所提供的活動及服務都及以往的廣泛，但堂所仍扮演著重要的角色。在過去二十年來，因有大批新移民在卡定居，所以不斷有新的堂
Spring Festival, and other multicultural activities are supported by the entire community to retain its fascinating culture.

**Discrimination and Racism**

About 4,000 Chinese had made their home in Alberta when the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1923. Many Chinese were separated from their wives and loved ones for many years, if not forever. Charlie Chew, for example, was married in China in 1925. In 1930, as he recounted, "I wrote to Ottawa requesting that my wife be allowed to enter Canada. Ottawa refused, so I had to travel all the way to China to have a child." Not until 1988 would Mr. Chew again see his wife. After a fifty-eight year separation, she as finally permitted to join him. For the first half of the century, there were only a dozen Chinese families in Calgary amid several hundred married bachelors.

During the period between World Wars One and Two, there was definite job discrimination against Chinese in Alberta. Mrs. Helen Mock completed high school in Calgary and then sought employment. Although she had taken a business in high school, she could not obtain an office job. She believed that there was definitely discrimination at that time against Chinese who were looking for jobs. Finally she got a job in a knitting factory - working for Chinese people.

Mrs. Alice Louie-Byne was born in Canada. One of her sisters received training in nursing. But she said that no one in Calgary would employ her sister in nursing because she was Chinese. She had to leave Calgary and went to work in a small town. Referring to her own bitter experience, Mrs. Louise-Byne said that nobody could get good jobs in those days if you were Chinese. She wanted to write a civil service examination to try to secure a government job but they would not let her do so. All doors were closed.

The first generation of Chinese Canadians who grew up in the city's Chinatown faced a grim future, as racial discrimination made it literally impossible for them to work in mainstream businesses outside Chinatown. Many looked to China for work. The ones that were of school age often were sent to China for education in the hope of getting away from the discriminatory environment.

In Calgary, residents occasionally attempted to persuade the city to introduce and enforce restrictive measures directed against the Chinese community. In 1913 for instance, a group of citizens suggested that all Chinese residents be finger-printed and photographed for ready identification. The incensed Chinese community held meetings and denounced the scheme as undemocratic. The proposal was dropped. In 1916, a garage on the outskirts of Chinatown was purchased by Chinese residents, who converted it into a Chinese theatre. A lobby of Calgary citizens opposed to the location of the theatre and demanded that the city council pass a by-law prohibiting the theatre's existence, but the council voted down the proposal.

**Dr. Sun Yat Sen's Visit to Calgary**

(Glenbow Archives N.D.3-444b)

Group with Chinese Consul, Edmonton, Alberta (1929)

在爱德蒙顿中国国民党驻亚伯达省会工作人员 (1912)
所成立。今日華埠約有六十多個堂所，宗親會、同鄉會、教會、體育會、專業聯會及商會。此外更有中文學校，以國語及粵語授課；在重大的節目如農曆新年或多元文化活動，整個社區都會聯合起來籌辦慶祝節目。

種族歧視

當一九二三年排華法例通過時，亞伯特省約有四千多名華人。當時，很多華人都和他們的妻子和家人分隔兩地。以趙查理為例，他於一九二五年返回中國結婚，一九三零年曾去信渥太華要求申請妻子來加，卻遭拒絕。於是，他只有長途跋涉返回中國與妻子相聚。直至一九八八年，經過了五十八年的分隔，他的妻子才獲批准來加團聚。在排華法案通過的半個世紀，卡城大約只有十二個華人家庭，其他大部份是「已婚單身漢」。

在两次世界大战期间，华人在亚伯特省求职遭到明显的种族歧视。莫海倫太太雖然在中學時進修過商科，但畢業後卻找不到正式工作，她相信這也是因為當時中國人求職受到歧視。最後她只能在一間中國人經營的紡織廠工作。

他們把門都關起來了。

早期華人面對著一個非常黯淡的前景。由於在本地求職非常困難，很多父母都把子女送回中國唸書，好讓他們不用在這不公平的環境中長大。

卡加利的本地人時常擁動政府通過一些排斥華人的法案。一九三三年，一群本地人要求所有中國人打手指模及拍照以辨別身份，因遭到中國人強烈反對，這個提案才取消。

一九六一年，位於唐人街外圍的一個車房，華人購入，將它改建為中文戲院；但這個計劃被本地人極力反對，要求市議會通過法案禁止戲院興建，幸市議會加以否決。

重要事件-孫中山先生訪卡加利

一九一一年四月，中國國民黨創立人孫中山先生訪問加拿大的兩個城市-卡加利和溫哥華。孫先生的訪問得到政壇的支援，希望為他的革命事業籌款用以推翻滿清政府。

當時，滿清政府雖已懸紅加告孫中山先生，卻並未能阻止他在位於中央街南七零三號奧芬劇場對廣大群眾呼籲推翻滿清；孫先生又先後在好運酒樓（中央街南二零二號）及味江酒樓（中央街南二零六號，前雷彌早貨店）發表演講。卡城華人社團曾為孫先生的革
In April 1911, Calgary and Vancouver were the only two Canadian cities visited by Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the founder of the Chinese National League, during his third visit to Canada. Supported by the Chi Gong Tong, Sun was raising funds for his revolution to overthrow the Ching Dynasty.

The Manchu government had a price on his head, but it couldn’t stop him from addressing a rally at the downtown Orpheum Theatre (formerly at 703 Centre Street, S.), attending banquets in his honor where the Ho Won Restaurant is now (210 Centre Street, S.), and speaking at Louie Kheong’s grocery, now the Gee Gong Restaurant (206 C Centre St. S.). The Chinese community raised over a thousand dollars for Sun’s cause and today Chinese Calgarians can see Calgary’s name on a monument in Canton that commemorates the last daring uprising before the final overthrow of the Manchus. Two years after Sun’s visit, the Chinese National League was founded in Calgary.

Social Acceptance

As the Great Depression worsened in the 1930s, many Chinese in Calgary lost their jobs. Chinatown’s various associations could not cope with the demands upon them. By 1931 there were about 1,000 Chinese in Calgary, making it the largest Chinese community in the province.

Late in 1931 Chinese began applying for relief. Unemployed single men were granted an allowance of only $1.12 per week, but single non-Chinese received $2.50 per week. Chinese dissatisfaction with discrimination directed to them grew. Their protests were totally ignored.

In 1937, about 80 unemployed Chinese staged a lie-down protest on streetcar tracks, demanding $2.50 per week. Nothing resulted from this. Peaceful sit-down protests continued throughout January. In February, a similar protest turned violent and 13 Chinese were arrested.

The Chinese cause garnered support from other groups, such as Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. They pressed the Chinese case for justice and finally the government raised the relief payment to $2.12 per week, still less than that for non-Chinese.

A substantial change in the general public attitudes toward the Chinese developed during the Second World War. China and Canada were Allied powers, and Canadians were sympathetic to the suffering of the Chinese population under Japanese occupation and aggression. In 1937 a Pan-Alberta Anti-Japanese League was formed, with headquarters in Calgary. From 1937 to 1945 Calgary’s Chinese alone raised over $200,000 for China relief.

After the war, attitude toward Canadian Chinese were much improved. Overt racism had become extremely unpopular because of the Nazis’ racial doctrines, and in 1947 the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed. Many Chinese families in Calgary were reunited.

Increasing acceptance and appreciation of the Chinese was demonstrated, for example, in a Calgary Herald editorial in 1952. “The extent to which the citizens of Chinese ancestry have been assimilated into [our] society accepting many of its forms while never losing touch with the greatness of their own culture is a pattern of successful immigration...” Because of previous attitudes, such an editorial would not have appeared before the Second World War.

Wartime co-operation was not the only influence on white Canadian attitudes. The emergence of family life and higher living standards among Canadian-born Chinese and Chinese immigrants were also a powerful influence.
一九三七年，八十多名失業華人躲在街道上抗議示威，要求每星期二元五角的津貼。這和平安靜持續了一個多月；直到二月，原來是和平的示威演變成暴力，有十三名華人被拘捕。

這件事件引起各界關注，英聯邦共同合作社便就此事提出質詢，最後政府讓步，把津貼提高至每星期二元一角二仙，仍低於其他種族人士。

在第二次世界大戰期間，反華至華人的態度起了很大的轉變。中國和加拿大是盟國，而加拿大人對於中國被日本侵略的慘況深感同情。一九三七年，亞省反日聯盟會正式成立，總部設於卡加利。由一九三七年至一九四五年間，卡加利的華人為中國籌得救濟款二十多萬元。

社會的接納

一九三零年經濟大衰退時，很多在卡加利的華人都失去工作，華人組織亦未能應付華人在各方面的需要。一九三一年，卡城華人人口已達一千多人，成為亞伯特省華人聚集最多之地。

一九三一年底，華人開始申請政府援助。一般而言，華人爭取政府援助是單出身的人每星期可得津貼二元五角，而華人卻只得大戰之後，一般華人對華人的態度都有普遍改善，由於不滿納粹黨的種族政策，華人的種族歧視亦不受歡迎。加拿大排華政策於一九四七年亦正式廢除，卡城很多華人家庭因此而得以團聚。

加拿大人對華人的接納與重視程度逐漸提升，例如，一九五二年的本地報章有以下記載：「華人在這裡海內外的過程中不斷吸取本地文化並融入我們的社會中，卻不忘祖國文化的優良傳統實是難能可貴……」這段社論在戰前是絕對不會出現的。

大戰及其間，由於中加的緊密合作改善了雙方的關係，
Immigrants from Hong Kong

In 1967 the Canadian government adopted a new immigration policy which gave people from all parts of the world an equal opportunity to qualify for admission. For the first time in Canadian history, prospective Chinese immigrants were treated exactly the same as immigrants of other nationalities and were selected for admission according to education, training, skills, and other criteria linked to economic and manpower requirements.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Chinese communities in Calgary experienced significant growth, primarily because of emigrants from Hong Kong. Unlike the early Chinese pioneers, many of them were independent immigrants and were admitted according to their educational background, occupational skills, knowledge of English, and personal qualities. Most of them were professionals such as doctors, engineers, and architects. A considerable number of Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong were entrepreneurs of moderate or great wealth who set up businesses and created employment in Canada; their businesses ranged from restaurants to banking and their influence is seen today in all walks of life.

1973, a provision in the Immigration Act permitted permanent residency to any person who had been in Canada on or before 30 November 1973, including visitors and students. As a result, many Chinese students from Hong Kong and other places became landed immigrants.

In 1980 a new ‘investor’ immigrant category was introduced. This program has attracted many wealthy Hong Kong Entrepreneurs and investors to Canada. Those entrepreneur immigrants have helped Canadian industries get back on their feet. For example, in 1987 Li Ka Shing, a Hong Kong billionaire, purchased 52% of Calgary-based Husky Oil Ltd. In April 1988, Li’s company, Concord Pacific Developments Ltd., purchased the 85-hectare site of Expo ’86 on the north shore of False Creek for $320 million. These investments helped range of financing and helped create jobs in the country.

In Calgary’s Chinatown, because of the expected influx of large numbers of immigrants from Hong Kong, developers and businessmen have increased their investments. In the coming future, Chinatown will go through more drastic changes. The population is continuing to increase; as a result, there will be more commercial developments and more business leading to an even more vibrant community.

Conclusion

The history of the Chinese in Calgary in the last 100 years, just like Chinese everywhere in Canada, is mostly a story of racial oppression, denial of civil rights and many years of systematic discrimination created by the host community and a succession of governments at all levels for most of the century.

From the time the first Chinese set food in Canada more than 100 years ago, they have been met with extreme cruelty and hostility from the white majority. The xenophobic attitudes of the host country, particularly in the first half of this century, had caused the early Chinese settlers an experience of mental and physical suffering and indignity that no other minority group in the history of Canada had ever encountered.

Through their unique characteristics of sacrifice, perseverance and hard work, the Chinese managed to survive over a half century of injustice and hardship at the hand of the host country. Notwithstanding the ordeal, they made a significant contribution to the building of Canada, from the gold rush in the Fraser Valley and the construction of the most treacherous portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in British, through their efforts during the Second World War, to their presence in many fields today.

With the changing attitude of the white majority after the Second World War, and the subsequent introduction of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and official policies of multiculturalism, and a more equitable and enlightened immigration policy, the Chinese began to prosper. Just as Canada is focusing its attention on the economic powerhouse of eastern Asia, Chinese Canadians are injecting a new vitality into Canadian society, which will have a profound, far reaching and positive effect for Canada as it enters the 21st century.
司名義，購買了八六年世界博覽會地段，這幅八十五公頃的地段需款三億二千萬元，這宗交易替加拿大帶來不少經濟上的發展及就業機會。

在卡城的唐人街，由於不斷有新移民湧至，商號及發展商都擴充及投資。今後，預料華埠人口將不斷增加，工商業將更蓬勃，華人社區將更興旺。

結語

卡加利的華人，和加拿大其他地區的華人一樣，在近百年來的史詩，實在是一部受著白人和白人政府有計劃的歧視制度下爭生求存的血淚史。

自從一百多年前華人開始踏足以白人為主體的加拿大土地，便受到白人的歧視與排揯。特別是前半世紀，白人這種仇外態度給華人帶來精神和肉體上的痛苦程度，是加拿大其他少數族裔所難以比擬。

加拿大的華人卻能以他們一貫的堅忍、耐勞和不怕犧牲的精神， Shea這種極不平等的環境中掙扎求存了五十多年，為加拿大歷史上的許多重大事件作出極大的貢獻。例如菲沙河谷的淘金熱，加拿大太平洋鐵路最艱險的鐵路路段的建築，和第二次世界大戰的積極參與和今天各行各業的貢獻。

第二次世界大戰後，白人對華人的態度開始改變。隨後人權法及多元文化政策的相繼訂立，移民政策亦有合理的修正，因而華人亦興旺起來。在加拿大正屬意於經濟上發展的今天，華人亦對社會注入一股新的活力。這對加拿大進入廿一世紀無疑會產生重大而深遠的影響。

百年滄桑——

Chinese Public School directors display model of new school, Calgary

Glenbow Archives PA-3441-43

Glenbow Archives NA-2864-18611
CHINATOWN

$10-million centre unveiled

'Ten years of hard work has finally come to fruition'

By Kim Lunman
Herald writer

A 10-year-old dream came true in Chinatown Sunday as the $10-million Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre was unveiled amid a festive barrage of balloons, firecrackers, dancers, homing pigeons and cheers.

"Ten years of hard work has finally come to fruition," Victor Meh, president of the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre Association, told the 2,000-strong crowd attending the outdoor grand opening of the long-awaited project.

"It will offer Calgarians and visitors alike new opportunities for educational and cultural enrichment regardless of their heritage and backgrounds."

Henry Fok, the wealthy Hong Kong businessman who donated $1.5 million to complete the mammoth project, said the centre will promote Chinese culture and multiculturalism.

"The cultural centre not only offers the local Chinese a place to get together ... it invites others to explore Chinese culture," he said.

A permanent collection of Chinese artifacts, on-going exhibits and lectures are planned to promote public participation in centre events.

The showpiece of the three-storey, 50,000-square-foot structure at 1st St. S.W. and Dading Avenue is the Great Cultural Hall topped by a hand-crafted ceiling and dome modelled after the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, China.

The centre also has a tea house, gymnasium, classrooms and a library.

Municipal, provincial and federal politicians were on hand at the gala opening.

Calgary Mayor Al Duerr called the centre "a dream realized," and said it would be a vital new downtown attraction for all Calgarians.

"We finally have it," said an elated Liza Chan, a six-year volunteer and member of Calgary's 70,000-plus Chinese community, who has devoted many hours to the building of the centre.

"This is more of a symbol to us of unity," she said. "This is the first time ever there's been a cultural centre here. We are united."

"It's a very happy day for us," said Raymond Liang, who came to Calgary from China a year ago, as he watched the opening ceremony with his wife and five-month-old daughter.

"We are so excited because there's a new home for us."

A banquet was held Sunday night at the centre with a performance by the Guangdong Television Performance Group.

Guangdong is the Chinese province adjacent to Hong Kong.

The celebration of the centre continues throughout the week with performances by traditional Chinese dancers and singers, Cantonese opera and karate demonstrations to be performed by several Calgary martial arts groups.

SHOWPIECE CELEBRATIONS: Colorful dancers parade through Chinatown.

Peter Meh, Calgary Herald photographer.
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