

PETITION

TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

WE, the undersigned residents of Canada draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT the contributions of Chinese Canadians were timely and significant in the creation of the Province of British Columbia and founding of Confederation, as well as the economic growth of all provinces in Canada for over 130 years;

THAT the introduction and imposition of substantial, punitive payments (referred to as *Chinese Head "Taxes"*) from 1885 to 1923, caused great, economic hardship, disadvantage, and human suffering to Chinese Canadians, families, and community, for a protracted period in Canada's history;

THAT the governments of Canada and Receiving Provinces, including, British Columbia, profited from the appropriation of these substantial payments of monies through a *General Consolidated Revenue Fund* in the face amount of \$18.9 to \$24 million from 1885 to 1923, while Chinese Canadians were disenfranchised and denied the benefits of public facilities and entrance to professions for several decades, thereafter;

THAT the introduction of the *Chinese Immigration (Exclusion) Act*, from 1923 to 1947, forced the unconscionable separation of Chinese families and community for almost a quarter of a century, even though they constituted less than one percent of Canada's total population;

THAT these laws and policies originated from the white supremacy laws of Australia of the British Empire, which had been abolished as ineffective in the regulation of Chinese immigration in the country of first instance;

THAT these laws and policies were imposed during peacetime, while China was formally recognized as a *friendly nation* to Canada in the international community and relations were governed under Treaty;

THAT discriminatory immigration laws against Canada's Chinese remained in force until 1967; and,

THAT successive federal governments have since failed to negotiate the redress of this issue, while Chinese Head "Tax" Payers, Surviving Spouses, Descendants and community have waited for a just settlement.

THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon Parliament to urge the Government to enter into negotiations with the Chinese community to redress this long-standing injustice in an equitable and expeditious manner.

SIGNATURES

(Please sign your own name. Do not print.)

ADDRESSES

(Full home address OR City & Province)

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PLEASE BEGIN PAGE TWO. - THANK YOU!
