

### Chinese Canadian Reconciliation Advisory Group members

A Chinese Canadian Reconciliation Advisory Group was recruited to provide advice to staff for engaging with the community to identify potential actions for historical discrimination against people of Chinese descent. The advisory group is comprised of 2 City staff members of Chinese Canadian heritage, a historian/academic advisory, and 4 community members. Members represent a range of Chinese Canadian perspectives in Burnaby, including recent and established immigrants and people from different occupational backgrounds. Members were selected to represent a diversity of language speakers, source countries, and generations that form the Chinese diaspora in Burnaby.

#### Advisory Group Members

Jimmy Chow

Jimmy Chow is a retired property master in the motion picture industry, member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars), and long-time Burnaby resident since 1972. He has over 50 years of experience working with television and film. His credits include: The BFG, Warcraft, X-Men 2, Fantastic Four, Watchmen, Tron Legacy, Man of Steel, Superman, Legends of the Fall, Little Women, Seven Years in Tibet, Snow Falling on Cedars, Shanghai Noon, The Shipping News, and others. Jimmy's great grandfather arrived in Canada in 1898, and his father came to Vancouver in 1920. Both of them were subjected to the Chinese head tax. After the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Jimmy and his mother were finally able to reunite with his father in Canada in 1953.

Ben Fok

Ben Fok moved to Canada 40 years ago from Hong Kong when he was just six years old. He has a firsthand perspective on how Canada has changed in the past four decades. He graduated from UBC and quickly completed his MBA shortly after. Ben is a senior certified immigration consultant with over 12 years of experience and taught immigration practitioner courses as well as mentoring new immigration consultant licensees. He is currently a licensed Private Investigator focusing on various issues from theft and fraud, to bylaw violations. He is also a Reservist with the Canadian Armed Forces. Weekends are usually devoted to his three young children, taking them swimming and various family activities.

Christina Lee

Christina Lee (she/they) is the manager of operations and special projects at the Hua Foundation. They are a 2.5 generation Cantonese settler, born and raised on the unceded and ancestral lands and territories stewarded by the hə́nqəmiñə́m and Sḵwə́xwú7mesh sníchim speaking peoples. Christina currently leads the Language Access Project (LAP), to advocate for better language accessibility and equity across governments and institutions. They also lead hua's internal transformation projects and co-lead the capacity-building and consulting portfolios. Born and raised in these lands now known as Burnaby, their family operated several grocery stores in Burnaby and Vancouver in the 1950s-1970s.

Gordon Mark

Gordon Mark has lived in Burnaby for over 40 years. His mother was third generation Canadian born Chinese and his father emigrated from China in 1921, paying the required \$500 head tax. His community involvement includes serving as Past President of the Chinese Canadian Historical Society and an Executive Director for the Chinese Cultural Centre of Vancouver. At the Richmond Regional and Vancouver Heritage Fairs, he participated as a judge and adjudicator. He has also helped conduct historical and educational walking tours of Vancouver's Chinatown. His knowledge and techniques in conducting genealogical research and making audio/visual presentations is something he frequently shares with others.

### **Historian Advisor**

Dr. Henry Yu

Dr. Henry Yu is an Associate Professor in the University of British Columbia's history department. Between 2009-2012, he was the Co-Chair of the City of Vancouver's project Dialogues between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal, and Immigrant communities. In 2015, Dr. Yu was appointed as the Co-Chair for the Province of British Columbia's Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council implementing legacy projects following the province's apology in May 2014 for historic anti-Chinese legislation. He also served on the Advisory Group for the City of Vancouver's apology process for Historical Discrimination Against People of Chinese Descent (HDC) from 2016-2017 that resulted in the City of Vancouver's formal apology for historical discrimination against Chinese Canadian residents on April 22, 2018.

### **City Staff Representatives**

Anita Chan

Anita Chan is the Public Engagement & Awareness Coordinator at the Burnaby Public Library. As a librarian and second generation Chinese Canadian, Anita is interested in how surveillance documentation produced by the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act shapes genealogy research of Chinese Canadians, and impacts how families understand their histories today. When she isn't researching for work, she is learning about histories she's picked up from her local travels.

Kim Lai

Kim Lai is currently the City of Burnaby's Manager, Accounting Services. She is a CPA, CGA, and holds overseas designations such as the ACA, FCCA, CA, CIA, and an MSc degree. She has worked for the City of Vancouver, Bentall, Colliers, and PCI. She was a full scholarship holder and worked for POSB and public-listed WingTai in Singapore. She immigrated to Canada in 1990 and is bilingual in English and Chinese. She believes in social justice and has fought for worthy causes like music education. She is a GFOA Budget Reviewer and Treasurer for two not-for-profit organizations, Rise Women's Legal Centre (Fall 2023 until July 9, 2024) and Tri-Cities Single Parents and Children Support Society, and volunteers at her community church.