

Proposed Apology Framework

Based on community outreach, the apology should adhere to the framework of:

Acknowledge, Recognize, Apologize, and Commit.

To ensure the apology adheres to the guidance developed through community outreach, it should:

- **Acknowledge** the linguistic diversity of Chinese Canadian communities in Burnaby; it should be delivered in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, and possibly a village dialect;
- **Recognize** that historic discrimination has a legacy (including intergenerational impacts, and low visibility of Chinese Canadian history in Burnaby);
- **Recognize** the resilience of Chinese Canadians and those who pushed back and advocated for inclusion;
- **Recognize** the contributions Chinese Canadians have made to Burnaby despite barriers and unfair treatment;
- **Recognize** that members of other cultural communities, including other Asian migrants, people of colour, and Indigenous peoples have also faced discrimination;
- **Apologize** for the specific historic discriminatory actions of the City, including a direct apology to the historic families and descendants whose families were impacted by the municipality of Burnaby's historic discrimination;
- **Commit** to ensuring the City never again perpetuates such harms;
- **Commit** to actions to address ongoing impacts and to reconcile with the Chinese Canadian community; and
- **Commit** to installing a physical monument or memorial to mark the event.

Content

- Community members who participated in the engagement events expressed that the apology should:
 - Reference specific discriminatory bylaws and policies to highlight Burnaby's historic discrimination;
 - Be specifically addressed to Burnaby's historic Chinese Canadian families and their descendants;
 - Acknowledge that historic discrimination has an ongoing legacy: Chinese Canadian residents and newer migrants that are part of the Chinese diaspora continue to face anti-Asian racism and discrimination;
 - Be action-oriented and include future commitments alongside an acknowledgement of the past;
 - Recognize the resilience of Chinese Canadians in the face of discrimination;
 - Acknowledge and draw connections between the histories and experiences of other marginalized groups in Burnaby; and
 - Refrain from using sanitized or vague language.

Language

Respondents expressed support for the apology to reflect the linguistic diversity within the community by being delivered in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

Descendants of historic families and members of the Community Advisory Group also reiterated that the apology should include Taishanese (Toisanese)—the Cantonese dialect that most early Chinese migrants to Burnaby spoke. Many felt that the linguistic diversity of the Chinese Canadian communities goes frequently unacknowledged.

Apology Format

Respondents felt that the presentation of the apology was as important as the content. Suggested methods of delivery included:

- To be a public, possibly more formal event such as a banquet, that can include celebrations of Chinese culture (e.g. dragon dancing, parade, etc.);
- Take place in a location significant to the present-day or the historic community; suggestions included the Kingsway area, Central Park, the Big Bend;
- To take place on a date significant to Chinese Canadian community members (e.g. on the anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act, during Asian Heritage Month, or on an anniversary of a specific piece of legislation passed by Burnaby). The event could be presented in partnership with a cultural organization such as Burnaby Village Museum or the Chinese Canadian Museum;
- To be delivered by the organizations that perpetuated the discrimination. In this case, as historic discrimination was perpetuated by Burnaby's local government, the apology should come from Mayor and Council; and
- To be commemorated, e.g. with a tangible memorial to be located at Burnaby City Hall or in another significant location.