

## **Biographies of Website Interviewees**

### **David Chong**

David Chong was born in Lytton, B.C. on August 17, 1933. His father was born in China and his mother in Victoria, B. C. David attended Lytton High School as it was then called, and was one of a two member graduating class. David graduated from University of British Columbia in 1954 with a B.A. and a LL. B. He was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1955. David practiced law as a general practitioner in Vancouver on a full time until 1987 and on a part time basis since, specializing in estates, business law and commercial leases. He is a friend and a former partner of Andy Joe, the first Chinese Canadian to be called to the Bar in B.C.

### **Bill Chu**

Bill Chu emigrated from Hong Kong 36 years ago and began a career as a Professional Engineer.

A chance encounter with an Aboriginal panhandler in Chinatown in 1988 led Bill to seek and learn about the Canadian history of dispossessing Aboriginals of their land, resources and human dignity. In solidarity with the Aboriginal peoples, he began to enlighten non-Aboriginal communities by organizing visits to native resources, hosting forums and issuing newsletters on Aboriginal issues. In 1996, he started “Dances with Dragons”, an annual celebration of the journey with the Aboriginal communities set within the Chinese Lunar New Year Parade. In 2000, Bill became the first Chinese Canadian engineer to receive the President’s Award for community service from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC.

In 2001, he formed Canadians for Reconciliation. In 2004, he organized a Historic Banquet, inviting 600 Aboriginals, Chinese and other Canadians to celebrate the reconnection between the Chinese Canadian and Aboriginal communities. The day of this event was proclaimed by the City of Vancouver as “The Day of Reconciliation with the First Nations”. In 2005, Bill’s work received an Honorable Mention in the bi-annual Awards of Excellence of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

In December 2005 when the Martin Government announced no apology and no compensation to the Head Tax payers, Bill and other local Cantonese speaking activists joined and supported the BC Coalition of Head Tax Payers, Spouses and Descendents in order to raise awareness within the Vancouver’s Chinese Canadian immigrant community. After a monetary redress was secured, Bill continued his work on reconciliation.

In 2008, the lack of reference to the Chinese Canadian history on the website of BC150 (a provincial initiative to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia) alerted Bill to the need to acknowledge Chinese Canadian history in B.C. Guided by Aboriginals, he shared the discoveries of many Chinese pioneer’s sites with the community. In spring 2009, after discovering that the New

Westminster Secondary School - which was slated for reconstruction - was built on top of several cemeteries including one for Chinese Canadians, he brought the issue to the media. Within a week, the School District sent a delegation to Chinatown to explain their plan and seek the Chinese Canadian community's response. During the process, Bill became aware of the troubling historical treatment of the early Chinese Canadian citizens by New Westminster. Bill presented to the City Council a brief history of Chinese Canadians in that city and convinced the Council to begin a process of reconciliation in July. By spring 2010, the City published a 37-page document to highlight its past discriminatory policies towards Chinese Canadians. This led to a call for further public input on a reconciliation plan. On June 28, the Council passed a reconciliation plan with ten redemptive actions. On September 20, 2010, the Mayor of New Westminster announced a historic formal apology to the Chinese Canadian community, the first ever such reconciliation in a Canadian city.

### **William Ging Wee Dere**

William Dere is a Chinese-Canadian activist and filmmaker. His films include: "Moving the Mountain (La Montagne d'Or)" and "Gens du Pays: The Chinese of Quebec." He also participated in the Global TV series, Past Lives and TFO's La Quete. He is presently working on another production in the aftermath of The Apology, "The Head Tax, What's That?/La taxe d'entree, c'est quoi ca?" to explore the effects of the Head Tax and Chinese Exclusion Act on today's youth.

William's father and grandfather both paid the \$500 Head Tax. Although his family was greatly affected by the Chinese Exclusion Act, he was not aware nor conscious of the impact that these two laws had on his family history until he got involved in the redress movement and in the making of "Moving the Mountain." He has been involved in the redress campaign since the 1980's as a former member of the CCNC National Redress Committee and co-chair of the Chinese Canadian Redress Alliance.

William is a graduate engineer with a M.Eng in Mechanical Engineering and keeping in the fine tradition of Chinese Canadians, he works for one of the railways as a day job.

### **Mary Eberts**

Mary Eberts grew up in South Western Ontario. She received her BA and LL.B. from the University of Western Ontario, and her LL.M. from the Harvard Law School. While at Western Law School, Mary had the good fortune to be mentored by Gretta Wong Grant, the first woman lawyer of Chinese descent in Canada. Ms. Wong Grant was then the Area Director of Legal Aid in London.

Since 1974, Mary has been a member of the bar of Ontario, conducting a national practice in equality and human rights law from a base in Toronto, appearing regularly in the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court, and Superior Courts and Courts of Appeal in Ontario and many other Canadian jurisdictions.

Mary was active in securing the equality guarantees in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and is a co-founder of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). She taught for several years at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, and has held both the Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights at the University of Ottawa (2004-2005) and the Ariel F. Sallows Chair in Human Rights at the University of Saskatchewan (2011).

She has been litigation counsel for the Native Women's Association of Canada since 1991. In the Head Tax Redress Case, Mary was co-counsel with Avvy Go. Mary has a daughter and two sons, and is the proud grandmother of Anna, aged two. Recognition for her equality work includes the Governor General's Award in Honour of the Persons Case, the Law Society of Upper Canada Medal, and several honorary degrees.

### **Susan Eng**

Susan Eng was one of the key strategists behind the successful campaign for Head Tax Redress, especially during the final years of the campaign leading up to the historic Parliamentary Apology in 2006.

As co-chair of the Ontario Coalition of Chinese Head Tax Payers and Families, Susan convinced VIA Rail to sponsor the "Redress Express". Starting in Vancouver, five Head Tax Payers brought a commemorative Last Spike across the country to symbolically retrace the route built by the indentured Chinese railway workers. In Toronto, they were joined by close to 200 people - Head Tax Payers, widows and their families. Together, they road the Redress Express to Ottawa to witness the historic apology in the House of Commons given by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Once the Last Spike is installed in the Railway Committee Room, it will complete the picture of the building of railway that helped bring the country together in Confederation.

Many will recall Susan as the former Chair of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Services Board from 1991 to 1995. In this role, Susan tackled sensitive issues of public accountability, police use of force, anti-racism, fiscal responsibility, and initiated groundbreaking policy and organizational changes.

At present, Susan is Vice President of Advocacy for CARP, the national, non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to advocating for social change that will bring financial security, equitable access to health care and freedom from discrimination for all Canadians as we age.

A long time and prominent contributor to the community, Susan has worked with the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, the YWCA of Greater Toronto and the founding national executive of the Chinese Canadian National Council. Susan helped to found the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care and served on its board for most of its 20 year history. The lessons learned from that involvement and her current contact with the Centre inform her work with CARP. Susan was elected for three successive terms to the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and received the Arbor Award for her

voluntary service to the University. Susan continues on the board of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

### **James Feng**

Born in Shanghai, in 1932, James Feng's family moved to Hong Kong in his teen's. After graduating from Hwakin College in Hong Kong, James went to Taiwan and obtained a Bachelor degree in law. Wanting to advance his education, James came to Canada in 1958 to attend McGill University on a scholarship. Two years later, James received a Master's degree in law, specializing in international air law.

Because at that time the Quebec Bar required lawyers to hold a Canadian Bachelor degree, James had to go back to law school to get one. While the bachelor in law was a three year program, the Dean at McGill fast tracked James' graduation by a year in view of his educational background. After finishing his article, James applied to write the Bar exam. His initial application was turned down. He appealed the decision and was finally admitted to the Bar in 1968, the first Chinese Canadian to do so in Quebec.

When studying at McGill, James met Lorenza Lu, a student of Chinese descent from the Philippines. They fell in love and James decided to stay in Canada.

While James was making his application to become a Canadian landed immigrant, so was one of his classmates, a white woman from England. One month after James' classmate put in her application, she received words that she would be allowed to stay in Canada. Mr. Feng, on the other hand, received a letter several months later advising him that he had to leave Canada. Outraged by the differential treatment, James went to see the Minister of Immigration in Ottawa and demanded an explanation. He was met by the Minister's assistant who soon approved his application.

Throughout his career, Mr. Feng practised law in Montreal as a general practitioner providing services in civil litigation, family, criminal, and immigration law in the firm of Demetrios A. Hadjis, who later became a judge. After his partner's appointment, James continued to stay with the firm. As James is multi-lingual – he is fluent in French, Mandarin and Cantonese in addition to English - about 80% of his clients were Chinese Canadians. He never had to advertise his service. With so many Chinese immigrants who could not speak English and even fewer who could speak French, and only a handful of Chinese speaking lawyers practising in Montreal, Mr. Feng's practice thrived.

Mr. Feng was very involved with the Chinese Canadian community. He helped found the Chinese Canadian Cultural Society and became one of its first directors and later its president. He acted as legal advisor for various societies, restaurant and other business associations. He also got involved in the broader community in Montreal serving as President for the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club, etc.

After practising law for 37 years, Mr. Feng finally retired in 2005. Looking back, he believes it was the right decision for him to stay in Canada and practiced law. Both his

son and daughter were born in Montreal. His daughter works for CNN and his son is a doctor. His wife has a Ph.D. in chemical engineering; she taught at Concordia University and later became Vice Principle of a high school in Montreal. Mr. Feng and his wife now live in Montreal, enjoying their retirement year and the lives that they have built for themselves in a place they call home - Canada.

### **Amy Go**

Amy Go is the Executive Director of Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care in Markham where she oversees a 200-bed long term home serving Chinese and South Asian Canadian residents.

Amy received her Bachelor of Art with a Psychology major from University of Waterloo and Masters of Social Work from University of Toronto.

For over two decades, Amy had been actively engaged in various national, provincial and local organizations in anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-poverty and women's movements. She was the National President of Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) and National Executive of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. As Chair of the Women's Issues of CCNC, she oversaw the first publication of oral history of Chinese Canadian Women, "Qin Guo" and a photo exhibit, "Women Did Come", both of which helped raise public awareness of the struggles faced by and the courage of early immigrant Chinese women in Canadian history.

As part of the CCNC executives, Amy helped advocate for the Redress of the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act. Also as President of CCNC, Amy was involved in a coalition for employment equity and successfully lobbied for the first Employment Equity Legislation in Ontario in 1993. In the early 1990s, she was appointed by the Ontario Government to participate in the review of the Social Assistance Legislation with a specific focus on addressing the needs of sponsored immigrants. She was also appointed by the Ontario Government to be the first Chinese Canadian woman to head the Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

In 2009, she was an instructor in social work practice at the Social Work Bridging Program, a program for internationally educated social workers at Ryerson University.

Between 2000 and 2010, Amy served on the Board of Trustees of the University Health Network. She is also the Co-founder and Chair of the Board of the CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses.

In 2006, Amy received the Immigrant Success Award from the Toronto Regional Immigration and Employment Council for outstanding innovation and achievement in promoting immigrant inclusive human resources practices. In 2009, Amy received the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for promoting equity and access for women of colour and other marginalized women.

## **Avvy Go**

Avvy Go is the Clinic Director of Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic. She received her B.A. in economics and management studies from the University of Waterloo, LL.B. from the University of Toronto, and LL.M. from Osgoode Hall Law School.

Since her call to the Bar in 1991, she has worked exclusively in the legal clinic system, serving the legal needs of low income individuals and families, the majority of whom are non-English speaking immigrants and refugees. Immigration, human rights, and employment law are some of the main areas of law that she practices in. Avvy is one of the recipients of the 2008 City of Toronto's William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations. She was also the Recipient of 2002 President's Award of the Women's Law Association of Ontario.

Avvy was elected as the President of the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter in 1989 and in that role, became involved in the Redress for Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act. She later became co-counsel in the class action law representing Head Tax payers, widows and descendents seeking apology and redress from the Canadian Government for the 62 years of legislated racism against Chinese Canadians.

Between 2001 and 2003, Avvy was a bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and was re-elected again in November, 2006. Since 2005, she has been a part time adjudicator of the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board. She was appointed to Board of Directors of the Ontario Justice Education Network in June 2009 as a representative of the Law Society.

Avvy has given numerous lectures and educational seminars in various areas of law including immigration, human rights, and employment law. She has also published articles in various publications including law journals, law books, community press as well as mainstream newspapers dealing with a variety of legal and policy issues affecting immigrants and racialized communities. Apart from her legal practice, Avvy spends much time doing community organizing and advocacy work. She was involved in a number of community organizations such as serving as the Vice-Chair of the Court Challenges Program of Canada and board member of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. In 2007, she co-founded the Colour of Poverty Campaign – a campaign to address the increasing racialization of poverty in Ontario.

## **Gretta Wong Grant<sup>1</sup>**

In Toronto in the fall of 1946, Gretta Jean Wong stood to receive her call to the bar. In doing so, she appears to have become the first woman of Chinese descent to join the profession of law in Canada. Her admission came a full forty-nine years after the entry of Canada's first female lawyer. The tenacious and widespread discrimination against

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<sup>1</sup> Written by Constance Backhouse, Professor of Law, University of Ottawa

the Chinese in Canada explains this regrettable delay. Yet Canada's first Chinese-Canadian female lawyer remained generous and optimistic throughout her life. "In spite of the difficulties we faced...we did have a lot of fun. I have enjoyed what I have done," she wrote long after her retirement. "I think I have had a really interesting life."<sup>2</sup>

Born on 31 July 1921, Gretta was the seventh of eight children in the only Chinese-Canadian family residing in London, Ontario. Her father, Lem Wong, had immigrated from China in 1896, and her mother Toye Chin followed in 1911. They ran a successful Westernized restaurant in downtown London, and although money was always tight, all but one of the Wong children attended university. Gretta graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1943, and moved to Toronto to begin legal studies at Osgoode Hall Law School that fall. She managed to obtain an articling position with the McCarthy & McCarthy law office due to her family's cooking connections, a fact that made her laugh over the irony of it even decades later. She was a strong proponent of women's equality and active in early feminist activities, co-founding the O.W.L.S. (Osgoode Women's Legal Society) and participating with the Women's Law Association of Ontario.

After her call to the bar, Gretta chose to pursue further education in the field of psychology and began her career as staff psychologist at the Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Women and the Cobourg Training School for Girls. In 1950, she married a Scottish-Canadian lawyer she had met at Osgoode Hall, James Alan R. Grant. Alan opened a law practice in London, Ontario, partly on the advice of Gretta's father, who assured him that there were business opportunities there. Gretta took some years out at home, to look after the four children she gave birth to between 1951 and 1956. She returned to work as a city solicitor in London, Ontario in the late 1950s. With the onset of Alan's terminal illness, she gradually took over his law practice as well. When her husband died in 1967, Gretta added to her responsibilities the management of London's first legal aid office. She sold the law practice in 1969 to work full-time in legal aid, putting a particularly innovative and humane stamp on the expansion of legal services to the poor in Ontario. She served as Area Director, as well as York County Director of Legal Aid. She retired in 1988, at the age of 67. Throughout retirement, she has continued to stay involved in community affairs, working with London's Race Relations Advisory Committee, and supporting immigration for diverse ethnic groups. She was honoured with the Law Society Medal by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2000.

### **Andy Joe**

As the first Chinese Canadian to become a lawyer in B.C., Andy Joe has spent his entire legal career pursuing justice on behalf of the Chinese Canadian community.

"My father was a coolie and my mother was a slave," Mr. Joe once said. Born in Victoria, B.C. as one of 13 children of a poor family, Andy joined the Royal Canadian Air Force before attending law school at the University of British Columbia. After being

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<sup>2</sup> For a fuller account, see Constance Backhouse "Gretta Wong Grant: Canada's First Chinese-Canadian Female Lawyer" (1996) 15 *Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice* 3-46.

discharged from the air force, he returned to Victoria where he tried to apply for a civil servant's job and was told flat out they would not hire Chinese.

Mr. Joe's former law school classmate, David Chong, recalled Andy as someone who somehow managed to graduate from law school without attending many of the classes. Andy worked as a night watchman at the students' camp during his time at the law school – perhaps he had to skip classes to catch up with his sleep.

After being called to the Bar in 1953, Mr. Joe began his legal practice in Chinatown, serving many Chinese Canadians who came to him with an array of legal problems. By then, the *Chinese Exclusion Act* had already been repealed and there was a wave of Chinese immigration to Canada: children and wives of the Head Tax payers. He has never refused to help anyone because the person did not have money to pay him.

For many years, Mr. Joe represented the Chinese Canadian community and often spoke on behalf of the community on various issues. For instance, he once convinced the local authority to change its plan to build a fire hall right beside a school in Chinatown. Another time, the city wanted to put a truck route through Chinatown; Mr. Joe led a community protest which thwarted the city's plan.

Also for many years the BBQ merchants in Vancouver had constant struggles with the city's health officials due to their requirements that the BBQ meat be kept at a certain temperature. Finally, Mr. Joe persuaded the local politicians to drop the regulations by hosting a BBQ for them.

Mr. Joe had also represented Chinese crew members who worked on ships which came in from Hong Kong; many of them were exploited by their employer. Through his contact with the local unions which staged pickets and other solidarity actions, Mr. Joe once managed to hold a ship for weeks on the dock until the shipping company agreed to pay the crewmen their wages.

Mr. Joe had always been very outspoken about Canada's relationship with China and from early on, he had felt that China was not being viewed fairly by the west. He had been involved with Canada China Friendship Society which mandate was to foster better relationship between China and Canada. His friend believes that during the McCarthy era, Andy was barred from entering the United States.

Mr. Joe is a person who has no regard for money. He has led a modest, yet colourful, life. He currently lives in a nursing home in B.C. He has four children.

### **Bradley Lee**

Bradley Lee is a journalist with 20 years' experience covering stories and managing news coverage in Asia and Canada. As a producer for the *Chinese Canadian War Veterans Project*, Lee shares his expertise and contacts in collecting and telling the stories of the Chinese Canadian community.



Recently, Lee worked as Historical Consultant with multimedia production company Stitch Media, which produced *Redress Remix*, a feature documentary, three-part television series and website (<http://www.redressremix.ca>), to tell the story of the Chinese head tax apology and redress campaign. His insight into the project came from his own direct experiences as national media strategist for the redress campaign. While recognizing contributions by many activists over the past two decades, Lee was able to refocus and redirect Canadian media and political attention on the apology and redress – even making them key issues among Canada’s large ethnic Chinese population in the 2006 federal elections.

Currently, Lee is curator and consultant on a website, learning resource and video project to re-examine the history of the Chinese Canadian labourers who built Canada’s “National Dream” – the Canadian Pacific Railway – through stories handed down to their descendants. The project, titled *The Ties that Bind: Building the CPR, Building a Place in Canada I* (available at: <http://www.mhso.ca/tiesthatbind>), includes 13 oral history interviews conducted by Lee with Chinese Canadians, including one interviewee whose father helped complete the railway more than 125 years ago in 1885!

Lee began his story-telling career soon after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations at the University of British Columbia, when he moved to Shanghai to study Mandarin. His studies were cut short by the 1989 Chinese student democracy movement, which culminated in the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen Square Massacre in Beijing. Filing stories from Shanghai, he was able to shed light on the historical changes taking place in China through his eyewitness accounts. His coverage earned him a job back in Canada at the *Calgary Herald* newspaper, followed by six years working as an editor/correspondent for Agence France Presse in Asia, and a decade as an assistant editor at *The Toronto Star*.

Lee lives with his wife in Toronto. He travels frequently and has a keen eye for stories that shape the political, social and economic landscape.

### **The Honourable Justice Linda Lee Oland**

Justice Oland was born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After obtaining her B.A. from Dalhousie in 1971, she moved to Saint John, New Brunswick, where she was employed by the Government of Canada for two years.

Justice Oland studied law at Dalhousie Law School and obtained her LL.B. in 1976. She was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar the following year.

Justice Oland articulated and practised law with McInnes Cooper (then McInnes Cooper & Robertson) in Halifax. Her areas of practice included corporate/commercial law, real property law, estates and trusts, and some immigration law. For several years, as a “down-towner” or part-time lecturer, she taught the law of wills and succession at Dalhousie Law School.

Justice Oland became the first female partner at McInnes Cooper. She was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1997.

While in practice, Justice Oland sat on the Council of the Nova Scotia Barrister Society and served as a member of its discipline committee. As well, she was a director of the Continuing Legal Education Society. She was active in the Chinese Society, and was a director and the president of the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association. She served as a director of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the Pier 21 Society, and the QEII Foundation.

Justice Oland was appointed to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court in February, 1998. She was elevated to the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal in 2000. She has been a member of several committees of the Court and has a particular interest in judicial education.

### **Dora Nipp**

Dora Nipp comes from a family that helped to build the Canadian Pacific Railway and paid the Head Tax. She pursues her passion for human rights and Chinese Canadian history through her professional work and community involvement.

She studied Chinese Canadian history as the first recipient of the University of Toronto's Chinese Canadian History Fellowship and as a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Hong Kong. As a historian Dora has written and produced various works on Canada's Chinese communities including curating a photo exhibit on Chinese women in Canada and directing the National Film Board of Canada's "Under the Willow Tree" a documentary on pioneer Chinese women in Canada. Joining the Multicultural History Society of Ontario in 1981 she volunteers as its Chief Executive Officer. She collaborates with a dynamic team of volunteers who pioneered the preserving and sharing of history through oral testimonies and interactive programming. Her work with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario caught the attention of the Rolex Awards for Enterprise, for which she received a 2004 Association Laureate for Heritage Preservation for the Oral History Museum.

A teacher before studying law, Dora is a veteran community advocate who for many years volunteered at the United Nations on behalf of political dissidents. Her legal work includes human rights, privacy rights and alternative dispute resolution. Dora is presently the Human Rights Education and Change Specialist with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

### **Tommy Tao**

Tommy Tao is a lawyer and writer. He has 29 years of voluntary service to the community. Among other things, he has served as Chairman of the Special Advisory Committee on Race Relations to the City of Vancouver, Vice-Chairman of SUCCESS (a major social services agency in Vancouver), member of the Practice Standards Committee for the Law Society of BC, President of the BC Chamber Orchestra Society,

Vice-President of the Chinese Canadian Writers' Association, and Trustee of the Vancouver Public Library. He received the Community Service Award in 2000 from his fellow lawyers of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

Tommy came to Canada in 1968 and graduated from the UBC Law School in 1981. He has been practising law in Vancouver since 1982. He has written a series of articles for public legal education in Chinese for the Singtao Newspaper, and had those articles updated and published in book form, entitled *A Practical Guide to Canadian Law*, which is now in its third edition. Since 2000, he has taken up the hobby of translating poetry from Chinese to English and vice versa, and has received the 2005 Liang Shih-Chiu Literary Award for poetry translation in Taiwan.

### **Walter Chi Yan Tom**

Walter is the principal partner of a law firm specializing in immigration and business law and coordinator of a university legal information clinic. His real passion, however, is community activism. Among his numerous volunteer activities, he has fought against racist practices affecting Chinese and other ethno-cultural Canadians in Quebec, challenged governmental policies that systemically discriminate against visible minorities, advocated the cause of community economic development in Montreal, campaigned for Redress and social justice for Chinese Canadian Head Tax payers and their families, and helped free wrongfully jailed protesters at the 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City.

Walter has been an executive board member and advisor of more than a dozen community and professional organizations, such as: the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals-Quebec, the Montreal Chinese Community United Centre, the Federation of Filipino-Canadian Association of Quebec, the Pinay Filipino Women Association, Centre d'Aide aux Familles Latino Américaines, the Centre for Research Action and Race Relations, the Canadian Bar Association- Quebec Immigration section, the American Association of Jurists- continental section, the Montreal Mayor's Foundation for Youth, a City of Montreal advisor on municipal policies on economic development, immigration and integration of ethno-cultural communities, etc.

### **Gary Yee**

Gary Yee was the National President of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) who spearheaded the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act redress campaign in 1987, making it a top priority for CCNC during his four years as CCNC President. As the grandson of a Head Tax payer, and a lawyer active in anti-racism and human rights, Gary was well-placed to lead the redress campaign and be its main spokesperson for many years. While the redress campaign started in 1984 when 2,300 Head Tax payers and widows registered their Head Tax certificates with CCNC, it was during Gary's term as CCNC President that the campaign saw the most activity – with the publication of brochures and briefs, the building of community coalitions and supporters, the lobbying of governments, and numerous public meetings and news conferences.

Gary immigrated to Canada in 1964 with his parents and seven brothers and sisters. Gary's family had been sponsored by his mother's father, who had come to Canada in 1917 after paying the \$500 Chinese Head Tax. Like thousands of Head Tax payers, Canada's racist laws caused the separation of families for decades.

Gary grew up in Toronto, and eventually graduated from law school at the University of Toronto. In 1987, two years after being called to the Bar, Gary left a government lawyer job to become the founding Executive Director of the Metro Toronto Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic. While managing a busy legal clinic with over 3,000 client contacts a year, Gary also was CCNC President, and he was very active in many human rights issues and networks.

After five years at the legal clinic, Gary moved his legal career to the Ontario government – first as manager of legal services at the Ombudsman of Ontario (1992 - 1993), then as Chair of the Board of Inquiry (1993 - 1998) that heard public complaints regarding police misconduct.

From 1999 to 2009, Gary was Special Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson of the Immigration Appeal Division at the Immigration and Refugee Board. During that time, he served on the Equity Advisory Group of the Law Society of Upper Canada from 2000 to 2006, and on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers from 2007 to 2009. In 2009, Gary was appointed Chair of the Social Benefits Tribunal in Ontario. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Canadian Administrative Tribunals (CCAT).

In 1999, Gary received the SOAR Medal from the Society of Ontario Adjudicators and Regulators for his contribution to Ontario's administrative justice system. Gary's other honours include Head of the Public Service Award (Canada) in 2003, Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2002, and Commemorative Medal for 125th Anniversary of Confederation of Canada in 1992.

### **Kew Dock Yip (1906-2001)<sup>3</sup>**

Kew Dock Yip (Dock) was born in Vancouver's Chinatown in 1906. He was the 17<sup>th</sup> son of Yip Sang, a wealthy pioneer merchant doing business in Vancouver.

While working as Secretary for the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver, he decided to become a lawyer. Since "Orientals" were not permitted to practice law in British Columbia, he moved to Toronto. On his third try, he was accepted by Osgoode Hall Law School where he graduated in 1945. Later that year, he became the first Chinese Canadian to be called to the Bar in Canada. Shortly thereafter, Dock opened a storefront law office in Toronto's Chinatown where he applied his legal and linguistic skills (he spoke three Chinese dialects) to provide a wide range of legal services to his clients. He served the Chinese Canadian community for 47 years till his retirement from law in 1992.

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<sup>3</sup> Written by The Family Yip

While Dock Yip was most famous for his leadership role in heading up a successful campaign in 1947 to repeal the *Chinese Exclusion Act*, his advocacy for the Chinese Canadian community did not end there. Between 1958 and 1966, he pushed for reform of Canada's immigration policy to lower the entrance barriers for Chinese immigrants.

Dock Yip had a vision for equality in a multicultural Canada. He believed that universal access to higher education was the key to achieving this vision. He served two terms as a School Board Trustee for an inner city ward in Toronto in the 70s where he strongly advocated for early childhood education and equal educational opportunities for all.

Dock Yip was a professional student as he continued his academic pursuit well into his 90s. Among other achievements, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from University of Michigan in 1931 and a Bachelor of Arts from University of British Columbia in 1941.

Dock Yip had received many awards for his significant contributions to the community and the law including several Distinguished Citizen Awards from a number of Chinese Canadian organizations, and special recognition from Ryerson University in 1994 at the age of 87 as the oldest student in the continuing education program. In 1998, he received the prestigious Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Upper Canada for his outstanding service to the legal profession. In 1933 during the height of the exclusion era, Dock was on the Vancouver's Chinatown soccer team when they won the City's championship. The team will finally be inducted into the BC Sports Hall Of Fame in 2011, some 78 years after the fact.

A multi-talented person with many passions and interests, Dock was also an actor and had appeared in such movies as *Year of the Dragon*. He had even appeared in a 1991 rock video with Cyndi Lauper.

Dock Yip was married to Victoria Chow, whom he met in Vancouver and they had three sons, Alfie, John and Jim.