

OCT 31 1988

MR GARY YEE, NATIONAL PRESIDENT
CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL
386 BATHURST STREET, 2ND FLOOR
TORONTO ON
M5T 2S6

DEAR MR. YEE,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 18.

AS YOU ARE AWARE THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS LONG BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGING OF THE INJUSTICE AND RACISM SUFFERED BY THE FIRST IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA TO CANADA. INDEED OUR MEMBER FOR VANCOUVER EAST MARGARET MITCHELL WAS THE FIRST PARLIAMENTARIAN TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AFTER RECEIVING A HEAD TAX CERTIFICATE FROM A CONSTITUENT.

ON BEHALF OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY I REITERATE OUR PREVIOUSLY STATED SUPPORT FOR YOUR DEMAND FOR AN OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE INJUSTICES COMMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA UNDER THE ACTS PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF A DISCRIMINATORY HEAD TAX BY CHINESE IMMIGRANTS BETWEEN 1885 AND 1923 AND THE FURTHER CLOSING OF CANADIAN BORDERS TO ANY IMMIGRANTS WHATSOEVER FROM CHINA FROM 1923 TO 1947. SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND FORMAL APOLOGY TO THE CHINESE COMMUNITY IN CANADA SHOULD INCLUDE FINANCIAL COMPENSATION. AS MY COLLEAGUE MICHAEL CASSIDY HAS SAID YOUR REQUEST FOR A SYMBOLIC SUM APPEARS FAIR. HOWEVER AS I AM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND A NEW DEMOCRAT GOVERNMENT WOULD NEGOCIATE THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION WITH YOU.

NEW DEMOCRATS BELIEVE THAT SUCH COMPENSATION SHOULD BE AWARDED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL REDRESS POLICY WHICH WE AS A GOVERNMENT WOULD ENACT. REQUEST FOR REDRESS AND FINANCIAL COMPENSATION COULD BE CHANNLED TO A SPECIAL INDEPENDENT BODY MANDATED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO OBJECTIVE CRITERIA. IN THIS WAY ALL SUCH GRIEVANCES CAN BE DELT WITH FAIRLY, EQUITABLY AND IN A NON-PARTISAN FASHION UNLIKE THE CONSERVATIVE APPROACH WHICH WAS TO SINGLE OUT A SINGLE COMMUNITY IN A PRE-ELECTION GIVEAWAY.

MY COLLEAGUES AND I SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CHINESE-CANADIAN COMMUNITY AND WE HOPE THIS MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOURS SINCERELY

ED BROADBENT