

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 CHanneled 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