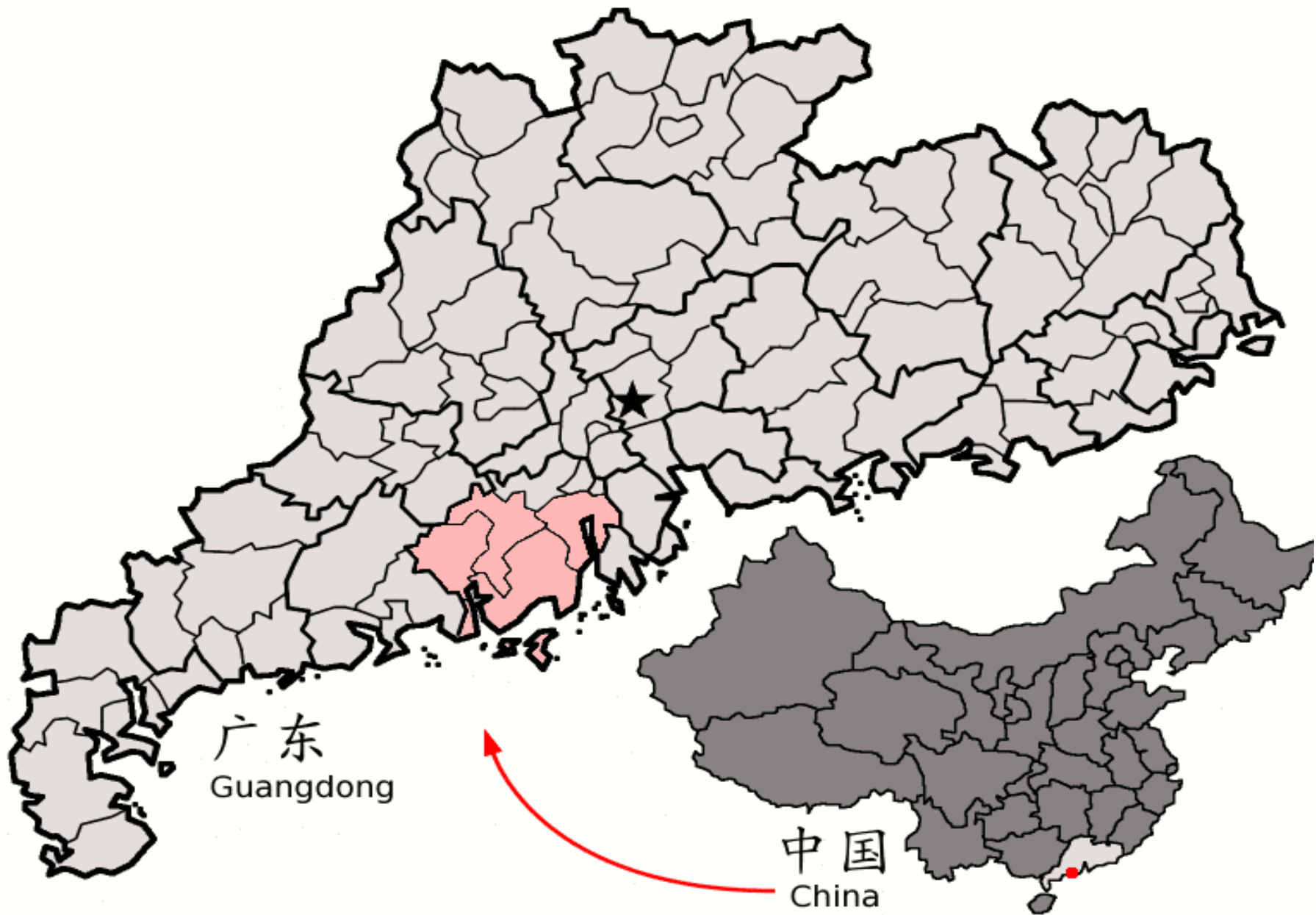


From Exclusion to Inclusion: The Journey and Contributions of Chinese in Canada

Lloyd Sciban
sciban@ucalgary.ca

Departure from China – Arrival in Canada - mid 1800s

1.1 Place of origin: a small area in Guangdong, close to Hong Kong.



“Push”: impetus to leave

-famine

-war, e.g., Taiping Rebellion (1850),
Opium Wars (1839, 1856)

“Pull”: drawing Chinese emigrants abroad

-need for cheap labour after abolition
of slavery (1833 Britain): Chinese labourers known
as “coolie” or “kuli” or (苦力, bitter labour).

Canadian need

- build the western section of the transnational railway, over 17,000 Chinese immigrants in the four years (1881-84).



from “Chinese Legacies: Building the Canadian Pacific Railway”

Working conditions and wages

-Chinese workers paid about half that of white workers, often for more dangerous work.

-indispensable in construction of the railroad

-coal mines

-3/4 of the salmon cannery workforce

-large majority of those employed in the gold mines

-produced the greater part of the vegetables grown in British Columbia.



Chinese worker in front of Iron Chink

3. Encountered racism

- Head Tax -\$500 in 1903

- not allowed to vote

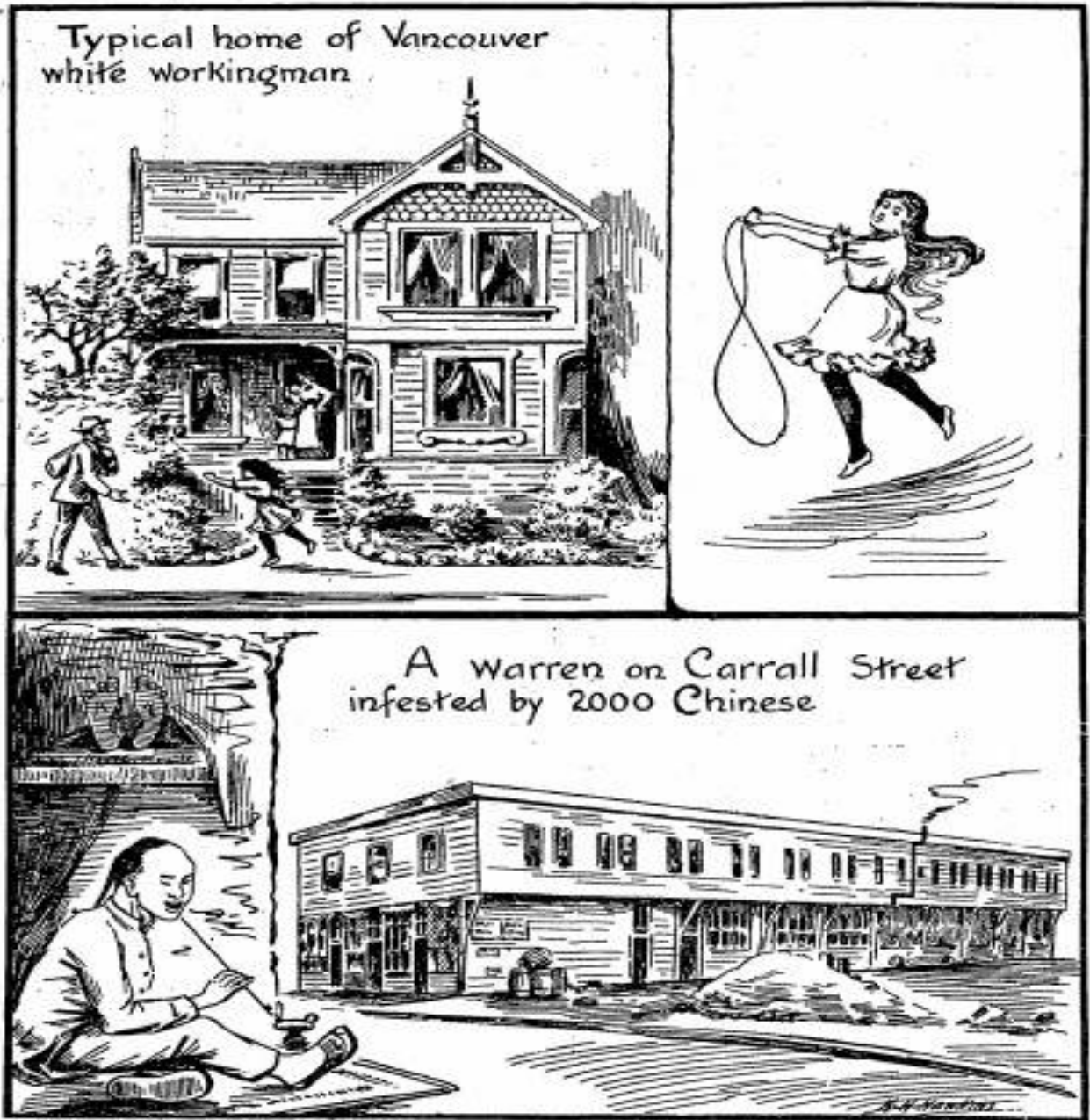
- 1872 - 1922, B.C. enacted more than 100 pieces of legislation discriminating against the Chinese and other Asians.



Fifteen Chinatown waitresses march on city hall

Source: "Dismissed Girls Parade to City Hall," *Vancouver Sun*, 25 September 1937, 1

Vancouver
newspaper
1907



THE UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT.

Restricted entry

- 1923 Chinese Immigration Act

Toronto Star
1907



THE SAME ACT WHICH EXCLUDES ORIENTALS SHOULD OPEN WIDE THE PORTALS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO WHITE IMMIGRATION.

Improved status of Chinese Canadians (CC) after WW 2

- rejection of racism

- war effort: CC had volunteered (600) and being conscripted to fight for Canada, purchase of Victory Bonds

Force 136 recruited to fight behind enemy lines in SE Asia



-adoption of a policy of multiculturalism in
1971

-Canada's need for new immigrants to
maintain and bolster its population

-improved abilities: immigrated on basis of
skills

-business immigrants: invested at least \$6
billion into the Canadian economy between 1986-
2000. 52.4 % of these immigrants were Chinese,
estimated to have created >40 thousand jobs
1986-96.

CHINESE CANADIAN ACHIEVEMENTS

Chinatown

Economy

Culture

Chinese Medicine

Chinatowns

-establishment and continued existence in the face of continued opposition

-provide goods and services, protection, mutual support, support for ethnic businesses and workers, a gateway between Chinese Canadian culture and mainstream society, and as a symbol of heritage culture.



Canton Block, ca. 1910. [City of Calgary Corporate Records, Archives]

Economy

Physical expansion of CC commercial activity

-spread of Chinatowns, creation of new ones, construction of Chinese shopping centers.

-Toronto: 1972 one Chinatown, no Chinese shopping centres; 2006, > 65 Chinese shopping centers and 2 designated Chinatowns



Toronto

-Richmond, B.C.: 1990 no Chinese shopping centers; 1998, 12.

-Calgary: Central Landmark Mall, 1996,
Pacific Place, 1999.

-86 Expo site in Vancouver and took control
of Husky Oil



Concord Pacific Place Vancouver



Concord Calgary

Culture

Population whose mother tongue is Chinese

1996	736,000
2001	872,400
2006	1,012,065
2021 (native speakers)	1,340,000

-CC active in creating schools and programs to ensure that younger generations raised in Canada are able to utilize the Chinese language.

-wide-spread presence of Chinese language media in Canada to serve Chinese speakers and readers

Schools

Calgary: At least 11 Chinese community schools in Calgary. The Chinese Academy is the largest in Alberta and has been over 1900 students.

Edmonton Board of Education: 13 public schools offering English-Mandarin bilingual education, from kindergarden to grade 12, 7 elementary, 4 junior high, and 3 senior high schools. Goal is to use 50 percent Mandarin in instruction. Presently, there are 1800 students in the program.

Chinese Language Media

The number of Chinese language media outlets is something that demands attention, estimated 125-200, including > 50 newspapers and periodicals, 11 TV stations, 6-7 radio stations, and more than 60 websites.

Fairchild Media Group (新時代): 5 TV stations in 3 cities, 3 radio stations in 3 cities.

Major newspapers: Sing Tao Daily (星島日報), Ming Pao (明報)

Chinese Medicine: system parallels mainstream system

-strong intuitive appeal.

-**maintenance** of good health, as compared with the treatment of injury or cure of a disease.

-**holistic:** all events are considered to be interrelated; individual's health dependent upon their environment and relationships.

Benefits

Economical

-low per capita expenditure on health, knowledge and skills are relatively easily transferred from expert to learner

-health is self managed

Presence of TCM in Canada

British Columbia: B.C. Ministry of Health established the self-regulation: College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners & Acupuncturists of British Columbia (1996)

Ontario: College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (2013)

Quebec: *Ordre des acupuncteurs du Québec (Québec order of acupuncturists) (1995)*

Alberta: acupuncture regulated (1988)

Newfoundland and Labrador;
College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Newfoundland
& Labrador (2012)

Canada: Natural Health Products
Directorate (1999)

Recent Calgaryh developments: initiated Tomorrow's Chinatown Project in 2018 with \$700,000 in funding resulting in:

Cultural Plan, 5 major themes: people, culture, commerce, housing, and places.

Area Redevelopment Plan

Renamed James Short Park to Harmony Park (和園)