



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

December 20th, 2023

TO:

Martin Roach, Assistant Commissioner, C Division Commanding Officer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Mike Duheme, Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Mark Flynn, Deputy Commissioner, Federal Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

CC:

Xixi Li, Executive Director, Chinese Family Services of Greater Montreal, Centre Sino-Québec of the Rive-Sud direction@famillechinoise.qc.ca

The Honourable Yuen Pau Woo, Senator YuenPau.Woo@sen.parl.gc.ca

RCMP Communications Office cdiv.communications@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

RE: Investigations of Chinese Canadian Community Organizations in Quebec

We are writing with alarm regarding the RCMP's recent actions and approach to the investigation of Chinese Canadian community organizations. The RCMP's decision to publicly name Chinese Family Services of Greater Montreal and the Sino-Quebec Centre of the Rive-Sud as organizations under investigation as Chinese "police stations" this spring has been followed by swift and damaging impacts to the community.

These established community centres provide important services to the Chinese Canadian community in Quebec. They support new arrivals with essential services to integrate into the community and find housing, work and schooling.

However, many of these services have been cut short as funding has been withdrawn following the RCMP's vague public allegations. Furthermore, we understand that Chinese Family Services has had to lay off staff, and is now in danger of losing their building in Montreal's Chinatown, a space which has served as a gathering place for community events, services, and conferences. Furthermore, the fear instilled by this investigation has an influence on people's sense of safety in seeking out the remaining services offered. These events cause us great concern.

It is unacceptable that more than 8 months later, the RCMP has still not provided the groups under investigation with clarification as to the specific allegations leading to their investigation, nor evidence of wrongdoing.

We urge the RCMP to:

- Provide clarity to Chinese Family Services and the Sino-Quebec Centre as to the specific allegations raised against them, including the RCMP's references to "illegal" activities;



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- Finalize any investigations as quickly as possible, so as not to further prolong the harm to the organizations in question and the wider community;
- Refrain from using language that exacerbates Sinophobia and stigmatization of the Chinese Canadian community in any future communications; and
- Take remedial action to repair damages caused to the community organizations following the RCMP's public comments, including correcting the public record as relevant, and supporting the reinstatement of funding.

As Japanese Canadians, we know the danger of state-sponsored anti-Asian racism first-hand, and have ourselves experienced the outcomes of blanket accusations that Asian community members are acting as foreign agents. The unjust legacy of the RCMP's rounding up and incarceration of Japanese Canadians during WWII still touches many of our families today. This moves us to speak out when we see similar rhetoric being perpetuated against our Chinese Canadian neighbours.

In the year of the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which aimed to exclude Chinese immigrants from Canada, we again see how Chinese Canadians and newcomers are being intimidated from participating in local community life. It is imperative not only that the RCMP learn from past mistakes in this new century, but also that you repair harm that has already been done in recent months. We invite you to take the actions outlined above as the first steps to resolution, and to engage transparently with the affected community organizations throughout this process.

Les Kojima

President
National Association of Japanese Canadians

Kristen Perry

President
National Association of Japanese Canadians -
Quebec Chapter