

Speaking Notes
for the
Hon. Teresa Wat
Minister of International Trade
China National Day Celebration

6:30-8pm

Regency Ballroom
Hyatt Regency Hotel
655 Burrard St., Vancouver

Prepared by GCPE

Check against delivery

Event Information / Speaking Notes

Event: Reception to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China

When: 6:30pm, September 19, 2014

Where: Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 655 Burrard St., Vancouver

Speaking backdrop: podium, stage, microphone

Parking: Need to make your own arrangements

Style of dress: Business

Logistics: TBC

Contact: Consul LI Yue, cell – S.22

Speech Length: 2-3 minutes

Audience Description: Approx. 800 people consisting of Consular Corps, Chinese and B.C. business\arts\academic community, etc.

Agenda:

18:30 Guests arrival

18:45 VIP arrival

19:00 Speech from Hon. Alice Wong

19:05 Speech from Her Honour, the Hon. Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of BC

19:10 Speech from Hon. Teresa Wat

19:15 Speech from Consul General LIU Fei

19:20 Joint toast from Consul General with VIPs and all chiefs of the Consulate General

(The time schedule is only for reference. It might vary according to the actual speech times)

KEY MESSAGES:

- China and B.C. have a very close relationship and we look forward to continuing to develop and strengthen our cultural and economic ties.
- B.C. highly values its relationship with China as shown in our trade missions and in our 20-year sister-province relationship with Guangdong Province.
- Those ties will increase as we grow our economies with more trade.

PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:

- Honourable Alice Wong, Minister of State for Seniors
- Her Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Judith Guichon
- Consul General Liu Fei

Introduction:

- Thank you.
- I would like to take a moment to acknowledge:
 - Honourable Alice Wong, Minister of State for Seniors
 - Her Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Judith Guichon
 - Mrs. Liu Fei, Consul General of the People's Republic of China
- It's an honour to be here tonight as we celebrate 65 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China.
- B.C. has deep historical, cultural and economic ties with China.
- Today, 11 per cent of British Columbia's population can trace their family roots to China, myself included.

- It is a relationship deepened by the many daily connections between our people and businesses...
- ...and the ties we have developed over our long history.
- In fact, B.C. and China have some relationship milestones coming up next year.
- We will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of our sister-province agreement with Guangdong Province.
- And next year also marks the 30th anniversary of Vancouver's sister-city relationship with Guangzhou.
- Vancouver is just one of over 20 B.C. municipalities that has a sister-city or friendship agreement with Chinese cities.
- It's relationships like these that create new opportunities for trade and investment between B.C. and China.

Trade with China

- Trade missions are also an important part of fostering these relationships.
- Last November, I went to China on my first trade mission as Minister of International Trade.
- I travelled to nine cities throughout China.
- From Guangzhou and Hong Kong, to Chengdu, to Shanghai and Beijing...
- And for the first time to Chongqing.

<<Minister, you may want to insert a personal anecdote about your trip here>>

- This trade mission was instrumental in making key business and government connections...
- ...that lead to mutually beneficial investment and job creation here in British Columbia and in China.

- And we know we are making significant inroads.

[PAUSE]

- For example, B.C. exports to China are growing, with total goods exports coming in at \$6.8 **billion** last year.
- That's a 14% increase over the year before...
- ...and by far the most of any province in Canada.
- China is our second-largest trading partner, next to the United States, and we are excited about the opportunities to continue to build on that success.

[PAUSE]

- And another key development that will boost investment between Canada and China just took place last week.
- The Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement,

known as FIPA, was ratified on September 12th.

- It's expected to provide a more stable and predictable investment environment...
- ...and create more opportunities for B.C.-based companies to expand operations in China and vice versa.
- And of course, our four Trade and Investment Representative Offices in China are there to help facilitate these new opportunities.

Conclusion:

- In conclusion, the future between B.C. and China is as bright as ever.
- As China grows stronger – so does B.C.
- Thank you Consul General Liu Fei for having me here tonight to celebrate National Day with you.

- We value the excellent relationship we have with you and your staff, and appreciate the support the Consulate provides on a daily basis.
- Thank you, and happy National Day.

-30-