

Jan. 12, 2017

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of International Trade and Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism

CUMBERLAND – Please join Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism and Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley for an important announcement regarding the Chinese Legacy projects.

Event Date: Friday, January 13, 2017

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location:

**Cumberland Chinese Cemetery
3400 Union Road
Cumberland, B.C.**

Contact:

Media contact:

Media Relations

Ministry of International Trade

250 889-3922

**Media Plan
Cumberland Commemorative Monument**

**Cumberland Chinese Cemetery
Cumberland, B.C.**

**Friday, Jan. 13, 2017
1:00 p.m.**

Targeted pre-event pitches:

Jan. 12, 2017, - Media Advisory released morning

Distribution: Comox Valley

Follow-up calls afternoon of Jan. 12 to:

Ming Pao Daily	Susanna Ng	604-231-8998	sng@mingpaovan.com
Sing Tao Daily	Victor Ho	604 321-2858	victorho@singtao.ca
Fairchild Television	Albert Tsui	604 295-1319	assignmentdesk@fairchildtv.com
OMNI TV	Randip Janda	604 678-3820	news@omnibc.ca
Phoenix TV Canada Bureau	Kevin Zu	604-727-5338	s.22

China Central Television Toronto Bureau	Sen Zhang	647-939-5909	Zhang_sen@cctv.com
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Jan. 13, 2017 – Event day:

Scrum / QA session at event

Minister available to speak with media after the event concludes. _____ will manage the scrum.

Photographer:

Photographer will prepare images for social media. Link can then be shared with the media.

Video footage:

Videographer will upload video for approval.

One-on-one interviews:

Time will be set aside after the event for the Minister to do one-on-one interviews.

Opinion Editorial

TBD depending on event coverage.

Sustaining activities post-event

Up to 13 additional events will be announced in the coming months that will complement this event and subsequent media activities.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
Jan. 13, 2017

Ministry of International Trade
and Ministry Responsible for the Asia
Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism

Commemorative monument honours Cumberland Chinese Canadians

CUMBERLAND –A commemorative monument unveiled today in the historic Cumberland Chinese Cemetery recognizes the contributions of Chinese Canadians to B.C.'s rich cultural, historical and economic mosaic.

The natural stone monument with cast bronze plaques is accompanied by an interpretive signage panel to illustrate the connection of the cemetery to the larger Chinese community and concrete replicas of cedar post grave markers in memory of the people whose wooden grave markers have decayed and disappeared over time.

The monument reflects the 2014 apology delivered on behalf of the B.C. legislative assembly to Chinese Canadians for historical wrongs committed by past provincial governments. It will also serve as a permanent reminder of the racism, discrimination and hardships faced by Chinese Canadian pioneers who lived and worked in area coal mines and helped with the construction of the nearby rail line.

Many pioneers also established local businesses within Cumberland's once bustling Chinatown and some of their descendants still live in the area.

The monument is the second in a series of up to 15 markers – interpretive signs, plaques and monuments – that will be established in communities throughout B.C. in coming months. The first marker was erected in Kelowna in December 2016. Locations were recommended by the provincial Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC), which provides advice to government on B.C. Chinese legacy projects. Government is providing \$100,000 in Chinese legacy funding for the provincial monuments project.

As one of several provincial Chinese legacy projects completed or currently underway, the commemorative monuments project resulted from a report on the Chinese historical wrongs consultations. The report includes a recommendation for one or more regional plaques or monuments to be created to commemorate the positive contributions of Chinese Canadians to B.C.'s history, culture and prosperity.

Extensive provincial consultation with British Columbia's Chinese Canadian community, including a community forum held in Victoria in November 2013, led to the decision to establish this monument; government heard from local community members who were directly and indirectly impacted by historical discriminatory legislation.

The Cumberland monument was created in consultation with the Village of Cumberland. The monument project responds to the B.C. government's commitment to create a Chinese legacy for all British Columbians.

Quotes:

Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade and Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism (NOT APPROVED)

"B.C.'s Chinese community has played a pivotal role in shaping British Columbia into what it is today. This monument commemorates Cumberland's Chinese Canadian pioneers and stands as an enduring testament to their strength, their dignity in the face of great adversity, and their many contributions to British Columbia."

Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley (NOT APPROVED)

"Cumberland's Chinese Canadian community, including coal miners, railway workers, merchants and their descendants, feature prominently in the story of Cumberland's rich multicultural heritage. This plaque not only preserves the May 2014 apology in the legislature, it also creates a permanent legacy for all British Columbians and serves as a reminder that B.C. welcomes people of all cultures and backgrounds."

Leslie Baird, Mayor, Village of Cumberland (NOT APPROVED)

"The provincial government's previous recognition of the Cumberland Chinese Cemetery and Coal Creek Historical Park as places of historic significance reflects the cultural and historical impact the Chinese Canadian community has had on Cumberland. This commemorative monument also honours the many Chinese Canadian pioneers whose hard work and commitment to family and community will forever be remembered and appreciated."

John Leung, former Cumberland Chinese Canadian community member (APPROVED)

"I was born in Cumberland, lived there for more than 80 years and put up with racism and discrimination. However, my wife and I persevered, raised our family, ran a business and became a part of Cumberland's and B.C.'s rich multicultural mosaic. This commemoration means a lot to me because it recognizes the sacrifices and contributions made by our family and other Chinese Canadians to our community and our province."

Quick Facts:

- In 1788, the first Chinese workers to come to British Columbia landed in Nuuchah-nulth territory (Nootka Sound). They were part of Captain John Meares' expedition to build the first year-round, non-indigenous settlement.
- Today, B.C. is home to more than 460,000 Chinese Canadians, 11% of B.C.'s population.
- Government's implementation of recommendations in the Chinese Historical Wrongs Consultation Final Report is guided with advice from the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC)
- The LIAC was created by government to assist with the Chinese legacy projects. It works with Chinese Canadian communities and other key partners to advise government on project implementation and to ensure that the projects are known and communicated throughout the province.

Learn More:

For more information about the Chinese legacy projects visit

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/multiculturalism-anti-racism/chinese-legacy-bc>

Media contact:

Media Relations

Ministry of International Trade

250 889-3922



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

Hon. Don McRae

MLA Comox Valley

**Cumberland Commemorative Monument
Unveiling**

Cumberland Chinese Cemetery

3400 Union Road

Cumberland

January 13, 2017

Time 1:00 pm

Please check against delivery

Event Profile: Chinese legacy projects commemorate the apology in the legislature on May 15, 2014, and celebrate the contributions of Chinese Canadians to the history, culture and economic prosperity of our province. One of the legacy projects involves establishing one or more commemorative monuments in communities throughout B.C.

The second in a series of up to 15 commemorative marker announcements (the first monument announcement was in Kelowna on Dec. 3, 2016) is in the Cumberland Chinese Cemetery. The cemetery location was chosen for its importance to Cumberland's Chinese Canadian community and because the cemetery along with Coal Creek Historical Park (which is where the former Chinatown was located) were previously recognized by the Province as places of historical significance.

Ministry staff worked closely with the Village of Cumberland on the production of the monument and this announcement to commemorate its installation in the cemetery.

One of the speakers at today's event is John Leung. John was born in Cumberland in 1932 and lived there until he relocated to Burnaby in 2014 to be closer to his children. John and his late wife, May, experienced racism and discrimination and raised their family in Cumberland. They also established a business and were active members of the community. John is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award for his lifelong volunteer work. He was instrumental in ensuring ongoing maintenance of the Cumberland Chinese Cemetery and plans to be buried there next to his wife and other members of his family.

Note^{s.22} and his daughter, Colleen Leung, may speak in his place.

Speaking Time: 2 minutes

Event Contact: Emily Young, GCPE, cell 250 812-3471

Location: Cumberland Chinese Cemetery

Logistics: The podium will be positioned next to the monument to ensure it is captured in all photos. All speakers will stand alongside the podium and guests will fill the space around it.

Parking: Style of dress: Business

Attendees include: A number of stakeholders have been invited including the LIAC, regional MLAs, various Chinese Canadian community members, local First Nations representatives, and Village of Cumberland council members.

Media attending: Media have been invited.

Key Messages:

- This commemorative monument marks the May 2014 apology in the legislature and recognizes the contributions of Chinese Canadians to the history, culture and economic prosperity of our province.
- It serves as a permanent reminder of the racism, discrimination and hardships faced by Chinese Canadian pioneers who lived and worked in area coal mines and on the railway.
- It is one of a series of markers that will be established in communities across B.C. over the coming months. The first marker was unveiled in Kelowna in December.
- Locations were recommended by the provincial Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC) from 77 historic sites publicly nominated for historical recognition in 2015.
- Government is providing \$100,000 in Chinese Legacy BC funding for the project.

Agenda:

Time	Event Itinerary
11:00 a.m.	Emily Young and AV Specialists on site for technical setup
Event Summary	This will be an outdoor podium event on the site of the new heritage sign at the Cumberland Chinese Cemetery. Greenery and the new sign will create the backdrop.
	Media Relations: Emily Young Photographer: Emily Young
12:45 p.m.	Pre-brief with guest speakers led by Emily Young, Events Coordinator Location: off to the side of event area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade • Don McRae, MLA for Comox Valley Emcee • Leslie Baird, Mayor of Cumberland • John Leung, Coal Creek Historic Park Advisory Committee (Daughter, Colleen will speak if her father is unable to)
12:59 p.m.	Speakers are escorted to podium area
1:00 p.m.	MLA Don McRae goes to the podium, welcomes everyone, introduces himself, and announces that there will be an incense ceremony.
1:03 p.m.	Incense Ceremony – Minister Wat, MLA McRae, Mayor Leslie Baird and John Leung.
1:18 p.m.	MLA Don McRae returns to the podium and thanks everyone for their participation in the incense ceremony and invites Minister Teresa Wat to the podium to give remarks.
1:20 p.m.	Minister Teresa Wat gives remarks. During her remarks, Minister Wat to invite speaking guests to help unveil the new heritage sign. PHOTO-OP.
1:24 p.m.	MLA Don McRae thanks Minister Wat and invites Mayor Leslie Baird to the podium to say a few words.
1:25 p.m.	Mayor Leslie Baird gives remarks.
1:28 p.m.	MLA Don McRae thanks Mayor Baird and invites John Leung to the podium to say a few words.
1:29 p.m.	John Leung gives remarks.
1:32 p.m.	MLA Don McRae thanks John Leung, provides closing remarks and invites all speakers to gather at the front for a group photo. PHOTO-OP.
1:35 p.m.	Media availability.
1:45 p.m.	Event concludes – Reception to follow at the Council Chambers in Cumberland.

INTRODUCTION:

- Good afternoon everyone.
- Thank you for joining us today to recognize Cumberland's Chinese Canadian pioneers who helped shape this beautiful, vibrant and diverse community into what it is today.
- Before we begin, in keeping with traditional Chinese customs, there will be a cultural offering of incense, paper money and food.

[PAUSE]

Comment [LMgcpe1]: I think we should introduce the people participating in the ceremony. Also, have Don point out where that will be.

- Thank you _____
- I'd like to acknowledge the members of Cumberland's Chinese Canadian community, the Village of Cumberland council, local First Nations, and provincial Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council representatives who are with us today.
- I'd also like to introduce you to our speakers:
- Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade and Minister

Responsible for Asia Pacific Strategy and Multiculturalism...

- Mayor Leslie Baird [pronounced BARE-D], the Village of Cumberland
- And John Leung [pronounced LEE-UNG], a long time member of Cumberland's Chinese Canadian community who moved to Burnaby a couple of years ago to be closer to his children.

[PAUSE]

- Two and a half years ago, I was honoured to be in the legislature alongside my colleagues to witness a historic apology to Chinese Canadians for the decisions of past provincial governments.

[Feel free to add in your own remarks about your community's involvement with the Chinese legacy projects]

- Since that time, we've made a lot of headway on our commitment to British Columbians to create a

Chinese Legacy for everyone to enjoy.

- I'd like to invite Teresa Wat, Minister of International Trade and Multiculturalism to say a few words about the completion of government's most recent Chinese Legacy project.

- Minister Wat?

[Minister Teresa Wat speaks and invites speakers to help her unveil the monument]

- Now, I'd like to ask Mayor Leslie Baird to say a few words.

[Mayor Baird speaks]

- Thank you, Mayor Baird.
- Our final speaker is John Leung.
- John's family settled in Cumberland in the late 1800s and his grandfather and 2 other Chinese businessmen were responsible for creating this cemetery.

- John, will you please say a few words? [*If John is feeling unwell, his daughter Colleen will deliver the speech on his behalf*]

[*John Leung (or Colleen Leung) to speak*]

- Thank you, John.
- I would like to once again thank everyone for attending today's event.
- This event is so meaningful because this monument truly does symbolize the value and

recognition that Cumberland has placed on its Chinese Canadian community.

- Minister Wat, Mayor Baird, John Leung and members of the Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council, please assemble here with me for a group photo.

- Also, the Village of Cumberland would like to invite everyone to join them at a reception in council chambers at 2673 Dunsmuir Avenue for some light refreshments.
- Council chambers are located directly next door to the Village offices.
- Thank you.

-30-



SPEAKING POINTS FOR

Hon. Teresa Wat

**Minister of International Trade and
Minister Responsible for Asia Pacific
Strategy and Multiculturalism**

**Cumberland Commemorative Monument
Unveiling**

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The second in a series of up to 15 commemorative marker announcements (the first monument announcement was in Kelowna on Dec. 3, 2016) is in the Cumberland Chinese Cemetery. The cemetery location was chosen for its importance to Cumberland's Chinese Canadian community and because the cemetery along with Coal Creek Historical Park (which is where the former Chinatown was located) were previously recognized by the Province as places of historical significance.

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Note ^{s.22} and his daughter, Colleen Leung, may speak in his place.

Speaking Time: 4 minutes

Event Contact: Emily Young, GCPE, cell 250 812-3471

Location: Cumberland Chinese Cemetery

Logistics: The podium will be positioned next to the monument to ensure it is captured in all photos. All speakers will stand alongside the podium and guests will fill the space around it.

Parking: Available. Minister can be driven within metres of the monument if required.

Style of dress: Business

Attendees include: A number of stakeholders have been invited including the LIAC, regional MLAs, various Chinese Canadian community members, local First Nations representatives, and Village of Cumberland council members.

Media attending: Media have been invited.

Key Messages:

- This commemorative monument marks the May 2014 apology in the legislature and recognizes the contributions of Chinese Canadians to the history, culture and economic prosperity of our province.
- It serves as a permanent reminder of the racism, discrimination and hardships faced by Chinese Canadian pioneers who lived and worked in area coal mines and on the railway.
- It is one of a series of markers that will be established in communities across B.C. over the coming months. The first marker was unveiled in Kelowna in December.
- Locations were recommended by the provincial Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council (LIAC) from 77 historic sites publicly nominated for historical recognition in 2015.
- Government is providing \$100,000 in Chinese Legacy BC funding for the project.

Suggested tweets for MO:

- #BC and the Village of Cumberland unveil commemorative monument to recognize Chinese Canadian contributions to BC's rich cultural mosaic.
- Chinese Canadian pioneers in Cumberland and #BC remembered during commemorative monument ceremony.
- Commemorative monument in Cumberland unveiled today as part of #BC government's Chinese legacy projects.

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1:35 p.m.	Media availability.
1:45 p.m.	Event concludes – Reception to follow at the Council Chambers in Cumberland.

INTRODUCTION:

- Thank you, Don.
- And thanks to everyone who braved the cold today to join us for this important recognition of Chinese Canadian pioneers in Cumberland.
- Let me first acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the K'ómoks [pronounced COMOX] First Nation.

- I'd also like to recognize some special people who are with us today.
- Please welcome:
 - Leslie Baird [pronounced BARE-D), Mayor of the Village of Cumberland
 - May Gee and Marie Lowe of the Coal Creek Historic Park Advisory Committee

- Members of the provincial Legacy Initiatives Advisory Council including Ms. Imogene Lim and Mr. David Choi.
- And former MLA Ida Chong, whose grandparents settled in this area around the turn of the century...

[PAUSE]

- We are gathered together in this place of peace and tranquility to remember those who are no longer with us and to ensure their legacy remains for generations to come.
- I'm referring to the many Chinese Canadians who lived and worked in the Cumberland area when the first coal mines opened here in the late 1800s.

- In those days, the only people allowed underground were the Chinese miners.
- It was an extremely dangerous job.
- Not only did they work in the mines...
- They also helped with the construction of the rail line that began operation in 1889 to ship coal from the mines to the deep water shipping port at Union Bay.

- Others opened businesses in Cumberland's then-bustling Chinatown.
- One prominent Chinese family – the Leungs – established a grocery store in the village.
- John Leung, who was born in the back of his father's store and remained a member of the Cumberland community for more than 80 years is with us today.

- John, thank you so much for making the trip over from Burnaby.
- I'd like to welcome you and your loved ones to this special commemoration.

[PAUSE]

- Growing up here, John and his family faced racism and discrimination first hand.
- But they stuck it out – he and his wife, May Jang, raised their children in Cumberland.

- They ran their business here, and they said goodbye to family here.
- John's parents...
- three of his siblings...
- many friends, customers and extended family...
- And his wife, May Jang...
- were all laid to rest in this very cemetery.

- It's a special place and a fitting site for this event to mark the contributions and the sacrifices of Chinese Canadians.
- Although this commemorative monument represents a sad time for our province and for Cumberland...
- A time when Chinese Canadians struggled to maintain their dignity in the face of racist government policies and regulations...

- The monument also signifies the important role B.C.'s Chinese community has played in shaping British Columbia into what it is today...
- A province that embraces people of all cultures and backgrounds and values their contributions to our welcoming and inclusive society.

[PAUSE]

- I'd like to thank the Village of Cumberland staff for their tireless work and dedication to this project that has made today's event possible.
- In November 2013, Vancouver Island Chinese Canadians attended a community forum in Victoria where government heard from those who were directly and indirectly impacted by historical discriminatory legislation.

- The meeting was one of several consultations held with Chinese Canadian communities across the province.
- Later in 2014, Premier Christy Clark apologized to B.C.'s Chinese Canadian community on behalf of the entire legislative assembly for historic wrongs committed by previous governments.

- Following the apology, the Province released a Chinese historical wrongs consultation report that outlined recommendations for several Chinese legacy projects...
- ...such as the creation of regional markers to commemorate the positive contributions of Chinese Canadians to B.C.'s history, culture and prosperity.

- Recommendations were received during extensive community consultations, including the forum held in Victoria.

[PAUSE]

- This beautiful monument will serve as a permanent tribute to Cumberland's Chinese Canadian pioneers...

- And commemorate their sacrifices, their dignity in the face of great adversity, and their contributions to this community and to British Columbia.
- Let's acknowledge those who have come before us...
- Let's ensure that their memories and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

- And let's continue to work together to stamp out racism and discrimination, and ensure that this shameful chapter in B.C.'s vibrant, multicultural history is never repeated.
- Thank you. Now I would like to invite John Leung, Mayor Baird and MLA McRae to help me unveil Cumberland's commemorative monument.

-30-