

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2023

Item 15, Report No. 25, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 20, 2023.

15. NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT IN CANADA

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendations contained in the resolution of Regional Councillor Racco dated May 30, 2023.

Members Resolution

Submitted by Regional Councillor Racco

Whereas, the enactment of the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act, was a significant event in Canadian history that left a profound impact on the Chinese-Canadian community; and

Whereas, the Chinese Exclusion Act was a piece of legislation that effectively prohibited Chinese immigration to Canada for more than 2 decades; and

Whereas, the Chinese Exclusion Act imposed a head tax on Chinese immigrants who were already in Canada; and

Whereas, during the 24 years (until 1947) when the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed by the Canadian Government, it was estimated that less than 100 Chinese immigrants were accepted into Canada and existing Chinese immigrants were unable to bring their spouses and children to Canada; and

Whereas, the Chinese-Canadian was the only ethnic group that was barred from entry based solely on their country of origin in Canadian history; and

Whereas, the Chinese Exclusion Act legally sanctioned racial discrimination and perpetuated systemic racism against Chinese Canadians, setting a clear example of discrimination on the basis of race and was a product of the prevailing xenophobic attitudes of the time; and
Whereas, notwithstanding these significant hardships and negative impacts the Chinese Exclusion Act has had on generations of Chinese Canadians, Chinese Canadian community is proud of the immense contributions in making Canada a great nation as it is; and

Whereas, this year's 100th Anniversary of the Enactment of this Act provides an important opportunity to remember the injustices that were inflicted upon the Chinese-Canadian community; and

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2023

Item 15, CW Report 25 – Page 2

Whereas, on behalf of the Honourable Senator Yuen Pau Woo and the Honourable Senator Victor Oh, in partnership of with Action! Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT) Foundation organized a National Remembrance event on June 23, 2023, 3:00-5:00 p.m. ET in the Senate of Canada Chamber.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan organize a livestream viewing event to provide citizens the opportunity to mark this centenary event, by helping to educate our community, especially the younger generation, about the history, and to encourage them to reflect on our past, acknowledge the harm that was done, and work towards a more just and equitable future for all Canadians; and That other community groups be encouraged to participate by hosting their own livestreaming events; and
2. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this Member's Resolution to York Region and all York Region Municipalities, MPs & MPPs; and
3. That the Corporate and Strategic Communications department promote this event through the City of Vaughan's corporate communications channels, as appropriate; and
4. That these recommendations be ratified by Council on May 30, 2023.

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, May 30, 2023

**TITLE: NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ENACTMENT OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT IN
CANADA**

FROM:

Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco

Whereas, the enactment of the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act, was a significant event in Canadian history that left a profound impact on the Chinese-Canadian community; and

Whereas, the Chinese Exclusion Act was a piece of legislation that effectively prohibited Chinese immigration to Canada for more than 2 decades; and

Whereas, the Chinese Exclusion Act imposed a head tax on Chinese immigrants who were already in Canada; and

Whereas, during the 24 years (until 1947) when the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed by the Canadian Government, it was estimated that less than 100 Chinese immigrants were accepted into Canada and existing Chinese immigrants were unable to bring their spouses and children to Canada; and

Whereas, the Chinese-Canadian was the only ethnic group that was barred from entry based solely on their country of origin in Canadian history; and

Whereas, the Chinese Exclusion Act legally sanctioned racial discrimination and perpetuated systemic racism against Chinese Canadians, setting a clear example of discrimination on the basis of race and was a product of the prevailing xenophobic attitudes of the time; and

Whereas, notwithstanding these significant hardships and negative impacts the Chinese Exclusion Act has had on generations of Chinese Canadians, Chinese Canadian community is proud of the immense contributions in making Canada a great nation as it is; and

Whereas, this year's 100th Anniversary of the Enactment of this Act provides an important opportunity to remember the injustices that were inflicted upon the Chinese-Canadian community; and

Whereas, on behalf of the Honourable Senator Yuen Pau Woo and the Honourable Senator Victor Oh, in partnership of with Action! Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT) Foundation organized a National Remembrance event on June 23, 2023, 3:00-5:00 p.m. ET in the Senate of Canada Chamber.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan organize a livestream viewing event to provide citizens the opportunity to mark this centenary event, by helping to educate our community, especially the younger generation, about the history, and to encourage them to reflect on our past, acknowledge the harm that was done, and work towards a more just and equitable future for all Canadians; and
2. That other community groups be encouraged to participate by hosting their own livestreaming events; and
3. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this Member's Resolution to York Region and all York Region Municipalities, MPs & MPPs; and
4. That the Corporate and Strategic Communications department promote this event through the City of Vaughan's corporate communications channels, as appropriate; and
5. That these recommendations be ratified by Council on May 30, 2023.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

In consultation with the appropriate City staff, the necessary In-house equipment will be leveraged to support this event.

Two OCIO technical support staff will be required to support this event, to ensure a seamless uninterrupted livestream and to provide technical troubleshooting, if required.

There are no additional financial or resource implications for this event.

Attachments

Not Applicable