

**Chinese Canadian Military  
Museum Society**



**Fundraising Dinner**  
*November 3, 2018*





## Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

The Chinese Canadian participation in the World Wars is largely unknown within and outside the Chinese communities yet their contribution was significant. However, despite their courage and patriotism, there are few official displays dedicated to Chinese Canadian participation in either war.

As a result of their sacrifice in World War II, Chinese were finally able to claim the opportunities and rights afforded other Canadians. They were offered citizenship and the right to vote, which in turn, led to membership in professional societies such as law, medicine and engineering previously closed to them.

The role of our museum society is to collect, record and preserve artifacts, memorabilia and photographs and tell their wartime stories. Today, we also seek to educate a new generation of Canadians on the role the Chinese played in our country's history. We not only operate a museum – which is located within Chinese Cultural Centre complex in Vancouver's Chinatown – we also organize tours and talks, and undertake special projects designed to promote awareness of the experience of Chinese Canadian soldiers.

Find out more: [info@ccmms.ca](mailto:info@ccmms.ca); on [Facebook](#) and on our website at [www.ccmms.ca](http://www.ccmms.ca).



### ANAVET Pacific Unit 280

World War II Chinese Canadian veterans came into their own 68 years ago when 70 of their ranks were granted a charter of the Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada, Pacific Unit 280. They made history by becoming the first all Chinese Canadian vets Unit in Canada.

Chinese Canadians veterans had served in various theatres of conflict – in Europe, Southeast Asia, South Pacific and Australia – and were present as provincial President Sidney Hamilton presented the charter to Unit 280 President the late Frank Ho Lem of Calgary.

When members of Unit 280 donned the uniform of Canada's armed forces, they had experienced "the most glorious moment of their lives. But their task was only half done. Now that they had returned to civilian life it was their duty to fight for the rights not only of veterans but for all Chinese Canadians. During its formative years, the Unit focused its efforts and energy in fighting for civil rights. As recent as the late 1940s and the 50s, Orientals in this country were relegated to second class citizens in this province.

Besides fighting for political, economic and social equality, unit 280 also organized many gala and festive events. It sponsored a youth's drum and bugle corps, annual Narcissus Queen reception, summer picnic and yearly Children's Christmas party. In 1988 a plaque was erected in Goose Bay (later renamed Commando Bay), on the Okanagan Lake where a secret training camp was held to trained 13 Chinese Canadian vets in a secret mission. In the 1990s the Chinese Canadian veterans were guests on a China tour of China's Minister of Defence.

Members of Unit 280 have been turning out every year for the Remembrance Day parade and wreath presentation ceremony at the Cenotaph.

The success of Unit 280 is built in no small measure on the willingness and cooperation of its members. The Unit owes much to those who have worked so hard to hold the organization together during difficult periods. They have learned the incalculable value and satisfaction of comradeship.

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

**A Message of Greetings  
on the Occasion of the  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society**

**November 3, 2018**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to today's fundraiser celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS) and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.

Since 1998, the CCMMS has preserved and shared the rich military history of our Chinese-Canadian community. Through their inclusive programming, Canadians of all backgrounds have had the opportunity to learn about the contributions of Chinese-Canadian veterans to the strength and safety of our nation.

I wish to thank the organizers of tonight's event, as well as to thank all of the attendees for your generous contributions to this laudable cause. It is so important that we continue to tell the stories of those who came before us and protected the values that we hold dear.

To the CCMMS, congratulations once again on your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I wish you many more years of success.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harjit S. Sajjan".

The Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

HONOURABLE JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT *for* VANCOUVER GRANVILLE

### GREETINGS



I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to the members and guests of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society as you gather for your annual fundraising dinner and celebrate your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

2018 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One. The sacrifices made during that long and difficult battle can never be forgotten. The passing of time only makes the work of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum more crucial, because it reminds us of the importance of documenting, researching, collecting, and preserving the stories of veterans, soldiers, and civilians whose contributions during times of conflict have helped shape the society we have today. I note, in particular, the special recognition that will be given tonight to Frederick Lee and his unique story of selflessness and heroism as Canada engaged in the First World War.

Having had the opportunity to experience the Chinese Canadian Military Museum first-hand, I sincerely appreciate the dedicated work of its members and volunteers to educate visitors about the important contributions of our diverse communities to our Canadian society.

As you celebrate your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, may we continue to benefit from the important stories of our communities and country that the Society is committed to uncovering and preserving, and by which future generations will be that much more enriched.

Congratulations to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society on your milestone anniversary! I offer my best wishes for a memorable and successful event.

*Gilakas'la* (Thank you).

Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

November 3, 2018



### *A Message from the Lieutenant Governor*



As Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this annual evening in support of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.

Two important milestones are being recognized in 2018: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the first World War, and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society. The work of the society is vital in recognizing and remembering the diverse backgrounds and histories of those whose contributions to our nation's history has shaped our modern society.

One such individual is Private Frederick Lee, who was killed in action in 1917 during the Battle of Hill 70 in the First World War. His story of bravery and sacrifice, enlisting to fight even while he was denied the right to vote in the country in which he was born and raised, is just one of many of the poignant histories preserved and highlighted by the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society.

Please accept my sincere thanks to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, as well as to the volunteers, veterans and community leaders who support the society, for ensuring we will never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet Austin".

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC  
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



中华人民共和国驻温哥华总领事馆  
The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver

## Greetings

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the annual fund raising dinner held by Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society.

In late 19<sup>th</sup> century, early Chinese immigrants traveled over the Pacific Ocean to this land. They made enormous contributions to the building and construction of Canada and to the thriving multiculturalism of Canada. Some of them even volunteered to join the army and fought for Canada out of patriotism and also for world peace. Frederick Lee is one of the most notable Chinese soldiers during that period.

I wish that everyone in the Chinese community will keep in mind the achievements of the ancestors, make further contributions to both Canada and the country of origin and serve as the bridge and link between China and Canada.

I applaud the prominent roles of Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society in safeguarding and passing on the heroic deeds and spirit of our ancestors and wish tonight's event a big success!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tong Xiaoling'.

TONG Xiaoling

Consul General

People's Republic of China in Vancouver



October 15, 2018

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the 20th Anniversary of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society. Your work in raising awareness about the significant contributions of Chinese Canadian veterans has been steadfast, enlightening, and catalytic.

I was especially pleased to take part in the recent commemoration of the Battle of Hill 70, which has drawn attention to a nearly forgotten group of around 300 ethnic Chinese soldiers who fought for Canada during the Great War. Among those who fought and died in WWI is Frederick Lee, who has become a symbol of dedication to a country which, at the time, did not even recognize Chinese Canadians as citizens.

Thanks to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and its many volunteers, the story of Fred Lee and that of many other Chinese Canadian veterans can be shared widely, especially with the youth of our country. Your efforts have contributed significantly to a growing appreciation of the role that Chinese Canadians have played in our country's history and development.

I wish your 20th Anniversary Gala a great success, and all attendees a wonderful time at the event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuen Pau Woo'.

Honourable Yuen Pau Woo



## A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to congratulate the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society on its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and welcome all those attending the 2018 fundraising dinner.

With this event, the society marks a full century's passing since the end of the First World War and honours a Chinese Canadian soldier from BC who fought at Vimy Ridge and fell at Hill 70 in France. Frederick Lee of Kamloops joined the Canadian Expedition Force and ultimately sacrificed his life in service of our country. While we can never repay the debt, we must preserve these memories. I commend the organizers for taking this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Lee and express gratitude for all Canadians who have bravely taken up the duty to protect peace and order.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the society's volunteers and patrons for their hard work and support maintaining a museum that is unique in Canada, and for making tonight's gathering possible. In particular, I offer my thanks and highest respects to our veterans — because of your strength and commitment, the legacies of those we lost will never be forgotten.

Please accept my best wishes for an excellent dinner and fundraiser.

  
HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN  
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

November 2018

Dear President King Wan,

I wish to extend my warmest greetings to you and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society and congratulate you on CCMMS's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

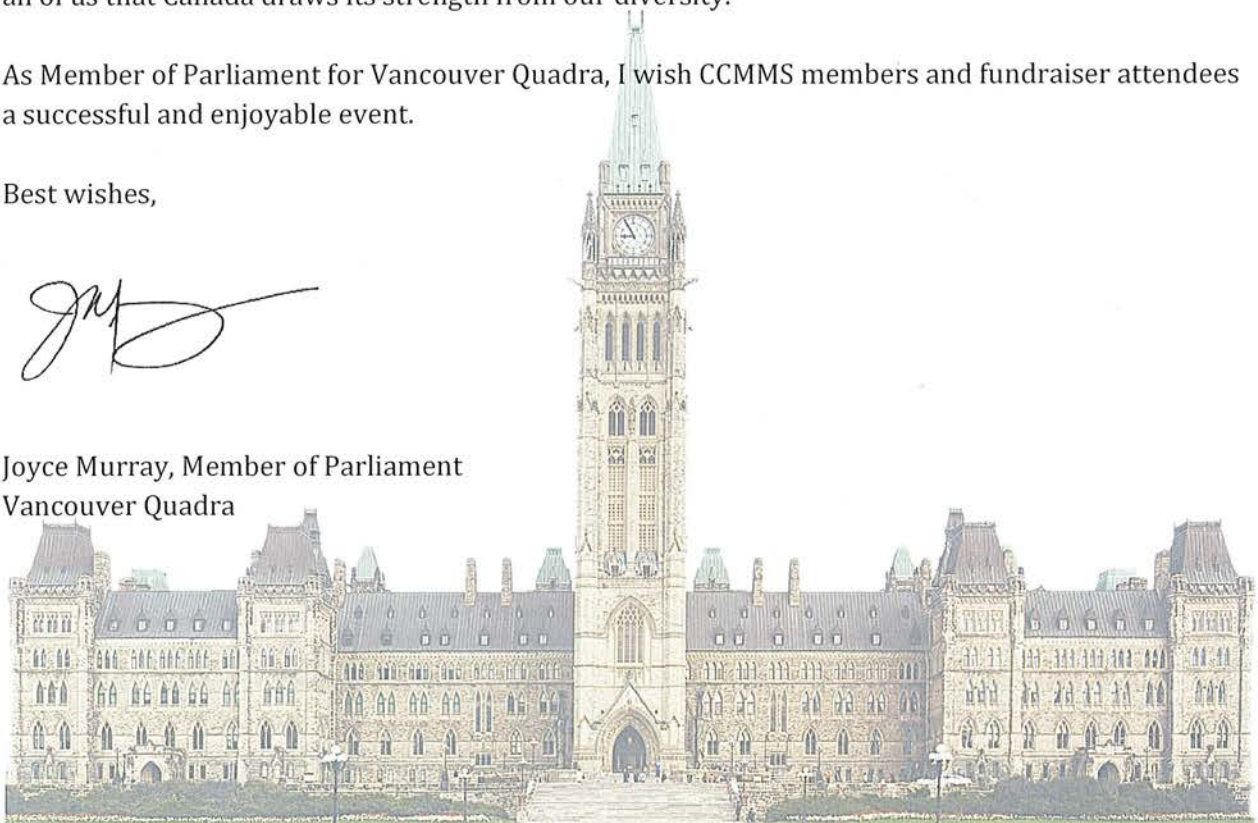
As we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War this year and the many important military milestones that followed, let us remember the sacrifices of the service men and women throughout our history, who came from all walks of life and were united in the values they defended: inclusivity, equality, and justice for all.

I also thank you for CCMMS's important work on highlighting the contributions of Chinese veterans, such as Frederick Lee, in Canadian history. Organizations like CCMMS make countless contributions towards cultivating and celebrating multiculturalism in Canadian society, and continue to remind all of us that Canada draws its strength from our diversity.

As Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra, I wish CCMMS members and fundraiser attendees a successful and enjoyable event.

Best wishes,

Joyce Murray, Member of Parliament  
Vancouver Quadra





REAR-ADMIRAL BOB AUCHTERLONIE, OMM, CD

It gives me great pleasure in supporting the Chinese Canadian Military Museum on this, the centennial anniversary of the end of World War I. I have had the great privilege of meeting so many incredible Chinese Canadian Veterans and am particularly proud to share in honouring Mr. Frederick Lee, one of the first Chinese Canadians to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I.

The museum is a credit to all of those who have worked so hard to create a living history of commitment and service before self. The stories that are told of struggle, perseverance and sacrifice are truly inspirational to all Canadians and rightly bring the spotlight on to some of the most significant elements of Canadian history.

I am incredibly fortunate and proud to have a diverse group of servicemen and women in the Maritime Forces Pacific Command and would like to thank the Chinese Canadian community for their hard work in maintaining such good relations and celebrating the Canadian Armed Forces. I would like to thank you for your presence and support to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and wish you a wonderful evening.

Bob Auchterlonie  
Rear-Admiral  
Commander Maritime Forces Pacific



Bruce Ralston, MLA  
Surrey - Whalley

October 12, 2018

GREETINGS

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Surrey-Whalley, I wish to extend my congratulations to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising dinner of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society. This year also marks the monumental 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I.

I wish to pay tribute to all Canadians of Chinese origin who volunteered and sacrificed their lives for Canada. Their valor, perseverance, and loyalty to their nation and community were highly commendable. We shall never forget the efforts made by those veterans.

I recognize the importance of the role that the Chinese Canadian Military Museum plays in British Columbia particularly to preserve and to educate the wider community about a history that needs to be understood. Thanks to your archival endeavours, British Columbians have a greater understanding of the significant contributions that the Chinese Canadian community has made to British Columbia.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success and service.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ralston, MLA  
Surrey-Whalley

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**Hon. George Chow, P.Eng.**  
Member of Legislative Assembly  
for Vancouver-Fraserview



November 2018

*Greetings*

On the auspicious occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS), it is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to the annual fundraising dinner event of the Society. This year also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War I, when Canada's contributions lifted this nation onto the world stage.

This event also commemorates past Chinese Canadians who participated in this great conflict, including Frederick Lee – a Kamloops-born British Columbian who fought courageously at Vimy Ridge and lost his life on Hill 70. Without the sacrifices made by Lee and many others, we would face a very different world today.

I would also like to pay tribute to our World War II veterans, particularly Chinese Canadians who volunteered for the war effort and were instrumental in securing voting rights for all Chinese Canadians. From sojourners to full-fledged Canadians, the struggle and sacrifice of our forebearers are legacies that we are coming to appreciate.

Lastly, I wish to thank CCMMS for its hospitality when Premier John Horgan visited your museum in Vancouver Chinatown at the Chinese Cultural Centre on July 29<sup>th</sup> this year.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'George Chow'.

Hon. George Chow, P.Eng. 周炯華 省議員  
Member of the Legislative Assembly, Vancouver-Fraserview

October 3, 2018



**GREETINGS FROM ACTING MAYOR RAYMOND LOUIE**

As Acting Mayor of the City of Vancouver, it is an honour to welcome everyone to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society's Annual Fundraising Dinner.

This year marks two special anniversaries: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the museum society. This evening while we reflect on the leadership and courage of Frederick Lee, and the many other Chinese Canadians who volunteered and participated in World War One, we are reminded of the invaluable service they provided to our community. Also, I would like to take a moment to thank all of the volunteers who carry out the important work of the museum.

I wish you great success this evening in meeting your fundraising goals and in continuing the wonderful work of the museum.

Sincerely,



Raymond Louie  
Acting Mayor – City of Vancouver



## The Chinese Canadian Military Museum

By Howe Lee, Colonel (retired) Canadian Army, President Emeritus, CCMMS

It is estimated that over 600 Chinese Canadians served in every theatre of war. Very few people are familiar with this history and understand the profound contributions made by our Chinese Canadians.

On November 7, 1998, our Chinese Canadian Military Museum held its official opening at the Chinese Cultural Centre, in Vancouver. This was to honour the Chinese Canadian men and women who loyally served in Canada's Armed forces. Few know that Chinese Canadians had served in the First and Second world wars, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, the Gulf War, the Afghanistan Conflict and other peacetime capacities.

Our Chinese Canadian Military Museum has been instrumental in preserving the history of these courageous and patriotic Chinese Canadians who participated in Canada's military, in educating people, and in reaching the public. The Chinese Canadian Military Museum is a showcase to honour our Chinese Canadian military family.

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## CCMMS Scholarships

2018 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CCMMS. To celebrate this milestone, an enduring scholarship program was inaugurated following its proposal by WWII Veteran Monty Lee. Monty's proposal received unanimous support.

Scholarship scoring considerations consisted of: academic grades; a career plan; applicant related to a CCMMS member; community involvement; financial need; and submission of an essay or video on Chinese Canadian history or experience related to immigration, military or community life.

Winners are also required to commit themselves to "Paying It Forward" and similarly help someone else sometime in the future.

Two \$500 post-secondary studies scholarships were awarded this year. The Scholarship Committee – Terri Mew, Don Chapman and George Ing received 6 applications. All applications impressed the Committee making choosing extremely difficult.

However discussions and negotiations resulted in two winners and an Honourable Mention award. The two \$500 scholarship winners are: Jenny Lee Gilmore, daughter of Drs. Andrew and Kelly Gilmore; and Gregory Lee, son of Dr. Michael Lee. Ironically, but not surprising, both winners are grandchildren of Monty Lee.

During the selection process, the Committee found another application worthy of special consideration and agreed to make a one-time \$250 Honourable Mention award to Cameron Leong. Cameron is the grandson of another WWII Veteran Neill Chan.

Applications are now invited for the CCMMS 2019 Scholarship program.



## President's Message

By King Wan, President, CCMMS

Our museum is celebrating two important milestones this year.

The first milestone is the founding of our museum in 1998. Under the leadership of our visionary veterans led by Honorary Colonel Howe Lee, the museum officially opened on November 7, 1998, with Larry Wong as the first curator. In its early days, the museum consisted only of the hallway display panel on the second floor of the Chinese Cultural Center East Wing. This was eventually expanded to include the adjacent room on that floor. The museum has since seen many distinguished visitors over the past twenty years: from Governor Generals and Lieutenant Governors to Ambassadors; Premiers, Admirals and Generals to school classes and visitors from other continents; and to curious passersby who just happened to be walking on Columbia Street.

Our museum's aim is to encourage learning about the history and culture of the service of Chinese Canadians in our military over the past 100 years; their loyalty to serve Canada and struggles in the face of discrimination and eventual triumph in gaining the right to vote thus enjoying the privileges and responsibilities of full citizenship.

The second milestone is the commemoration of the end of the Great War that ended on November 11, 1918. As a young nation, Canada gave up many of our youths to this war and one of them was a Chinese Canadian who fought with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at Vimy and then on Hill 70 where he perished. He was one of approximately 300 Canadians of Chinese descent who joined the CEF and went to that war. We will share with you the story of Frederick Lee, a Kamloops born British Columbian this evening. You will find tonight's presentation by our keynote speaker quite captivating. Jack Gin, an entrepreneur, a philanthropist and an avid amateur historian, is now a subject matter expert on the life story of "Freddie Lee", as he affectionately calls him. I will keep you in suspense until our master storyteller Jack tells his story.

As our museum turns twenty years old we are also looking for ways to expand our collection of Chinese Canadian veterans' artifacts and stories. Your support to our fundraising efforts will help our museum improve our preservation of the veterans' stories and to ensure their legacies continue to be shared with the next generation of Canadians.



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# Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society



## 2018 Fundraising Dinner

### Evening Program

#### Reception

#### Introductions

MC Call to Order

VIP Procession

First Nations Welcome

National Anthems

Introduction of Dignitaries

Recognition of Veterans

President's Remarks

#### Dinner

Recognition Awards

Raffle Ticket Sales

Remembering those veterans we lost in 2018

Toast to Fallen Comrades

#### Dessert

#### Speech

Introduction to tonight's speaker

Speech (*by Jack Gin*)

Draws and Raffles





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## Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society



### 2018 Fundraising Dinner

#### Dinner Menu

BBQ Cold Meat Combination Platter

Deep Fried Shrimp Balls

Pan Fried Sliced Chicken & Shrimps with Greens

Crab Meat with Fish Maw Soup

Pan Fried Lobsters with Green Onion Dry Style & Noodles

Mixed Mushrooms with Seasonal Vegetables

Chinese Mushrooms with Vegetables

Deep Fried Crispy Skin Chicken

Shredded Dry Scallop with Egg White Fried Rice

#### Dessert

Almond Cookies

Cube Mango Pudding



## Chinese in World War I

By George Ing, CD LCol Retired RCAF, Director, CCMMS

During WWI as casualties mounted, the Allies imported about 180,000 Chinese – mostly from Shandong province – to perform duties that tied up many French and British military personnel. This released these troops to go join the fight on the front lines.

Use of the Chinese Labor Corps is credited, by some military experts, as being the difference in the Allies prevailing in WWI. Until recently, this was a little known part of history. This is a story for another time.

From Canada, about 300 Chinese Canadians volunteered to fight for Canada. The remarkable story of two brothers from near Shuswap, BC needs to be told.

Wee Tan Louie enlisted in February 1918 at age 29. During the conflict, Wee Tan was rejected when he attempted to enlist in the Canadian Army in BC. Undeterred, he spent his life savings to buy a horse and spent 3 months riding from Kamloops, BC to Calgary, Alberta where he was finally accepted.



He joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion and by April 1918 was shipped to England. Wee Tan served in France, Belgium and Holland. He was wounded and suffered hearing loss from the constant shelling. He received the Victory Medal and the British War Medal and returned to Canada where he settled in Vancouver.



Brother Wee Hong Louie enlisted in the Spring of 1917 at age 23. Wee Hong trained as a gunner, later became a wireless operator and then a driver. He served in Europe and received the Victory Medal plus the British War Medal. At war's end, Wee Hong attended the University of Chicago and graduated as an Electrical Engineer. Returning to Canada, he tried to start a radio repair shop in Orillia, Ontario but on applying for a business license, was refused – only because he was Chinese.

Not one to accept this rejection, Wee Hong indignantly parcelled his uniform and medals and despatched them to then Prime Minister MacKenzie King with a note asking if this was the treatment to be received after fighting for Canada. His uniform and medals were returned along with a letter of apology. He received his business license and operated his radio business until 1976.

Both brothers performed their military duties loyally, reliably and competently during the war. Given the existing discriminatory environment against Chinese Canadians that prevailed in BC and Canada at that time, they exhibited extraordinary determination and courage before, during and after WWI.

Their nephew, Thomas Wong age 101 and a WWII RCAF Veteran presently lives in Richmond.



## Keynote Speaker: J.M. (Jack) Gin, PEng

Jack Gin is a Vancouver-based volunteer, entrepreneur, consultant, advisor and corporate director of public and private companies. He has travelled to 35 countries and has developed business throughout the world. An engineering graduate of the University of British Columbia and a registered professional (APEG-BC), Mr. Gin has a history of positive impact wherever he gets involved.

He was the founder, President, CEO and Board Chairman of Extreme CCTV Inc. (TSX:EXC) from 1997 to its 2008 exit sale to Robert Bosch GmbH of Germany. During that tenure, Mr. Gin led an IPO (2002), two foreign corporate acquisitions, international business development and oversaw 11 consecutive years of revenue growth.

Extreme CCTV became one of the most recognized brands in the global security industry. Along that journey, the company collected the Canada Export Award, Deloitte's #1 ranking in its Fast 50 list, and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award – Technology category.

At other BC companies, Silent Witness, Weatherhaven and Britco, he was the executor of change that led to successes as specialty providers of industrial products and services.

Officially “retired”, a love for Canada keeps Jack Gin working. He is currently a board director of two outstanding clean-tech companies: Saltworks (water-tech) and Semios (agri-tech), which now employs 150+ smart young British Columbians.

In the community, Jack Gin directly contributes to charity projects in schools, daycares, hospitals, orphanages, women's centres, First Nations libraries ... from near his home in Burnaby to faraway places in Cambodia and Zambia.

When asked to help with the Hill 70 Memorial Project by contributing to a potential Frederick Lee Walkway, he got more than involved, to ensure that project's success. He insisted that there had to be more known about Private Fred Lee. “To honour Fred Lee, we have to know who he was”. Jack Gin embarked on a mission to find Fred Lee. His search continues to this day.



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## The Battle of Hill 70

*(Credits: from various sources including materials from Veterans Canada website, The Canadian Encyclopedia, Wikipedia and the Canadian War Museum)*

The Battle of Hill 70 took place between 15 and 25 August 1917 near the strategic town of Lens, France. It marked the first occasion during the First World War that a Canadian (General Sir Arthur Currie) had actually commanded the Canadian Corps in action. He took over from the British General Julian Byng who had commanded the Corps at Vimy Ridge.

The Canadians were sent to capture Lens, a French city half in ruins inside German-occupied territory not far from Vimy Ridge. Currie thought that Hill 70, which is 70 meters above sea level, was tactically more important. He believed that a traditional, frontal assault on Lens, followed by an Allied occupation of the city, would be futile if the Germans could simply shoot down at the Canadians from the commanding hills.

In an audacious move, Currie risked his command by disagreeing with his superior's order for a frontal attack on Lens, advocating instead seizing the Hill (70) north of the town. Currie believed that by capturing the hill he could aggravate the Germans in surrounding positions and provoke them to come out of their dugouts and attack. The Canadians could then kill large numbers of the enemy and drive them out of the area. He decisively convinced his superiors, including General Haig, to drastically alter the plan of attack, by making Hill 70 the Canadians' main objective.

The Canadians eventually captured the heights of Hill 70, but the cost was high. By the end of only the first day, 1,056 Canadians were dead, 2,432 were wounded and 39 had been taken prisoner. It's not known how many Germans died that day.

In the ensuing four days of hard combat, the Canadians turned back 21 German counter attacks and held on to their new positions atop Hill 70. Despite these German counterattacks, the Canadian Corps achieved a remarkable victory. This success, coming after the victory at Vimy, further boosted Canada's sense of pride and nationhood on the world stage. Most importantly, it cemented the reputation of the Canadian Corps as an effective assault force within the larger British army — a reputation the Canadians would prove again and again, under Currie's leadership, through the remainder of 1917 and 1918 as the war eventually wound to an end.

Canada's sacrifices — nearly 1,900 Canadian soldiers who died in the battle — are remembered today at the Hill 70 Memorial, and at the Loos British Cemetery outside Lens, France. The names of Canadians who died at Hill 70 with no known graves are also inscribed on the larger memorial at Vimy Ridge. Victoria Crosses were subsequently awarded to 6 members of the Canadian Corps who fought at Hill 70. Sadly, this battle remains virtually unknown by most Canadians today.

Tonight we celebrate the Battle of Hill 70 and the Allied victory in World War 1 that ended 100 years ago. We also want to remember Frederick Lee, a Kamloops born Chinese Canadian, a member of the Rocky Mountain Ranger machine gunner who fought at Vimy and then perished at Hill 70. We shall remember them.



## The Battle of Hill 70 (cont'd)



General Currie



MG Frederick Lee



Hill 70 Monument



## A Year in Review 2017 – 2018

This past year has been another busy year for the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society since our last fundraising dinner. The following events have happened since last year's dinner.

Date	Event
November 4, 2017	Double Happiness Annual Fundraising Dinner
November 5, 2017	"On A Wing and A Prayer" exhibit opening at CCMMS
November 11, 2017	Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Cenotaph and Chinatown Memorial
November 25, 2017	PCHC Museum of Migration Gala Dinner
January 6, 2018	ANAVET Pacific Unit 280 Installation Lunch
February 12, 2018	WenZhou Friendship Society Chinese New Year Dinner
February 18, 2018	Lunar New Year Parade in Chinatown
February 19, 2018	City of Vancouver Chinese New Year Lunch
February 22, 2018	Chinese Arts & Cultural Society Chinese New Year Seniors Lunch
April 1, 2018	Chinese Federation of Commerce Canada Fundraising Gala
April 5, 2018	Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC Dinner
April 8, 2018	Annual Vimy Ridge Commemoration at Mountain View Cemetery
April 14, 2018	Rights & Freedoms Luncheon at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
April 15, 2018	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Ladies' Luncheon at Sherman Armouries
April 22, 2018	Chinatown Cultural Day at Chinese Cultural Centre
May 5, 2018	Celebration lunch of veterans over 90 years old
May 23, 2018	Chinatown Foundation Dinner
May 28, 2018	Guangdong International Conference at Canada Place
June 24, 2018	Pacific Unit 280/Alex Louie Memorial Picnic at Trout Lake Park
July 1, 2018	Canada Day celebration at Chinese Cultural Centre and at Canada Place
July 7, 2018	"Forgotten Indigenous War Veterans and Today's Heroes" exhibit opening at CCMMS
August 18, 2018	RCCS Annual Seniors' Lunch
August 21, 2018	Press Conference for Frederick Lee Walkway at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Gardens
September 9, 2018	Battle of Britain Commemoration at Air Force Memorial Garden in Stanley Park
September 16, 2018	Battle of Britain Parade at Boundary Bay Airport
September 29, 2018	39 <sup>th</sup> Service Battalion's Open House at Sherman Armouries
October 6, 2018	RCCS Annual Fundraising Dinner
<b>November 3, 2018</b>	<b>CCMMS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Dinner</b>
November 8, 2018	Indigenous/Aboriginal Veterans' Day
November 11, 2018	Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Cenotaph and Chinatown Memorial
December 6, 2018	Christmas Concert at QE Playhouse Theatre



# Highlights From The Past Year





## Tomboy Digital Productions and CCMMS

By Alison MacLean, Tomboy Digital Productions, CCMMS Documentarian

In 2006, I had the honour of interviewing WW2 Veteran Peggy Lee, and (H). Col. Howe Lee, for a Vision TV Special called: The Power and the Grace: WW2 Women. This Documentary won numerous International Film Awards, and Screened in New York. Peggy asked me if I would help document the under told stories of Chinese Canadian Veterans. I was able to donate my time and services to document pivotal events over the next 12 years. Many of the stories were released on Social Media for Public Education, as well as used in the Video Kiosks, at both the Vancouver Public Library, and in the Chinese Canadian Military Museum. Numerous screenings were held at both Cinematheque Theatre and Vancity Theatre. Some of the productions are as follows: True Patriots, a series of vignettes on Chinese Canadian Veterans; Red Tails and Dragon Tales, Chinese Canadian Veterans and Tuskegee Airmen, in Vancouver, to comment on overcoming adversity; Rights and Freedom March, Williamshead, honouring fallen Chinese Labour Core workers; Chinatown: Then and Now, screened at Vancity Theatre, chronicles 100 years of Vancouver's Chinatown, and individuals; BC Honours Chinese Pioneers, a joint Plaque initiative, to commemorate fallen Miners, and Railway workers; Veteran Voices individual monologues of Chinese Canadian Veterans, Archived footage of Parades, Dinners, and Testimonials, that were made into Commemorative DVD's. In 2018, releasing for Public Education, We Served for Family, and Country, Indigenous stories of Service, supported by the Chinese Canadian Community.

In 2010, I was embedded in Afghanistan with the Canadian and US Forces, while Documenting the W Network Special: Outside the Wire. My flight was paid for by Funds raised from the Chinese Canadian Veterans, and WW2 Military Nurses, that I had featured.

I returned to Afghanistan in 2012, 2014 and 2016, while Documenting Burkas2Bullets, a feature focus on Afghan Police and Military Women, and Coalition support. Released in 2018, B2B, received a Remi Award from Houston, Worldfest FF, Official Selection at Artemis FF in Los Angeles. On April 17th, I received the Sovereign Medal from GG Payette, in recognition of some of my work with CCMMS, and in Afghanistan.



I am grateful to the Veterans, and the Board of CCMMS, for enabling me to archive great Canadian stories, of people that I admire, their stories will continue to educate, and inspire, the next generation on a Global scale. Stories are on Vimeo, Youtube and websites, as well as CCMMS Video Kiosk.

[www.tomboyproductions.tv](http://www.tomboyproductions.tv)





# Forgotten Indigenous War Veterans and Today's Heroes

By George Ing, CD LCol Retired RCAF, Director, CCMMS

The relationship between Indigenous and Chinese people reaches back in our history. Both faced severe discrimination in early BC. This is despite the Indigenous people being Canada's original people. When the Chinese arrived for the gold rush, they likely prospected on Indigenous land but it is reported that they respected the native land and the people. When the Chinese were abandoned after helping complete the Canadian Pacific Railway, it was the Indigenous peoples who saved many Chinese lives by providing shelter and food. Today the relationship is a close one. First Nations people are included in many of local Chinese events. They are invited to and included in parades, celebrations and activities.

Accordingly, King Wan, President of CCMMS, proposed an Exhibit honouring the numerous and significant Indigenous contributions in the various wars that Canada participated in. On July 7, 2018, this Exhibit opened to an attendance of well over 200 people. VIP guests included: Honourable Harjit Sajjan MND; Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould Minister of Justice; MLAs Teresa Wat and John Yap; Vancouver Councillors; local Chinese dignitaries and many notable local officials.

**Introduction**

*We Spread Family and Country*

Canada is a multicultural country that champions its diversity. Yet, Canada's past was a painful history of colonization and racial discrimination after the construction of the railroads. Chinese immigrants were charged land taxes and were disproportionately barred from settling in Canada. This early mistreatment of Chinese immigrants was often mirrored by the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples who arrived in the country of immigrants. By mistreating our Indigenous communities, we have often been overlooking.

Our mission was the importance of the transmission of military history and decided to host an exhibit to honor and continue the story for those Chinese soldiers and returning servicemen of our nation's Indigenous people. In efforts to recognize the legacy they have experienced through the spread of knowledge, and to give them their stories.

Despite the violence of cultural genocide and assimilation that resulted in 1973, Indigenous communities in western Canada began to re-emerge. In the 1970s, more than 10,000 First Nations warriors from the great lakes region participated in every battle. They made significant contributions to the professional network of British Commonwealth military alliances shared by young warriors of Canada to eventually gain recognition and world recognition.

**World War I**

When the First World War began in 1914, the Canadian government recruited Indigenous people from British Columbia, where almost 100,000 men of Chinese descent were living. In 1915, the government passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibited Chinese immigration. The government wanted to reduce the number of Chinese immigrants in Canada.

As a result of the Chinese Exclusion Act, many Chinese immigrants who were recruited as soldiers and sailors, many of them being young boys, were sent to military training camps in Canada. These soldiers contributed to the war effort and were recognized for their service. They were also recognized for their contributions to the war effort.

**World War II**

When the Second World War broke out in September 1939, many Indigenous people from British Columbia were recruited to serve in the Canadian Army. In 1940, the Canadian government passed the War Relocation Act, which allowed Chinese immigrants to serve in the Canadian Army. This act was a significant step towards recognizing the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the war effort.

**Korean War / Post War**

The Korean War began in 1950 and lasted until 1953. Many Indigenous people from British Columbia served in the Canadian Army during this conflict. They were recognized for their service and contributions to the war effort.

**Legacy & Contribution**

Indigenous people and their allies of their contributions to Canada's military history. The exhibit will feature a variety of artifacts, including letters, photographs, and military equipment. It will also feature a variety of historical images and maps. The exhibit is a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of these warriors and their families.

- 1) Chinese Exclusion Act
- 2) World War I
- 3) World War II
- 4) Korean War
- 5) Post War
- 6) Legacy & Contribution
- 7) Introduction
- 8) World War I
- 9) World War II
- 10) Korean War
- 11) Post War
- 12) Legacy & Contribution

1) Chinese Exclusion Act: The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882, prohibiting Chinese immigration to the United States. It was a significant step towards recognizing the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the war effort.

2) World War I: The First World War began in 1914 and lasted until 1918. Many Indigenous people from British Columbia served in the Canadian Army during this conflict.

3) World War II: The Second World War began in 1939 and lasted until 1945. Many Indigenous people from British Columbia served in the Canadian Army during this conflict.

4) Korean War: The Korean War began in 1950 and lasted until 1953. Many Indigenous people from British Columbia served in the Canadian Army during this conflict.

5) Post War: The period following the end of the Korean War, during which many Indigenous veterans returned home and were recognized for their service.

6) Legacy & Contribution: The exhibit is a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of these warriors and their families.

7) Introduction: The exhibit is a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of these warriors and their families.

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10) Korean War: The Korean War began in 1950 and lasted until 1953. Many Indigenous people from British Columbia served in the Canadian Army during this conflict.

11) Post War: The period following the end of the Korean War, during which many Indigenous veterans returned home and were recognized for their service.

12) Legacy & Contribution: The exhibit is a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of these warriors and their families.

After an opening speech by Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, Dr. Richard Vedan and Dr. Rosalyn Ing, both retired UBC professors, gave interesting talks about Indigenous people.

Dr. Vedan had a distinguished RCAF career, retiring as a Flight Lieutenant, spoke of his father Hector, a decorated WWII Veteran who joined the Canadian Army at age 17 and saw action in N Africa, Italy and Holland. Dr. Rosalyn Ing, who also served in the RCAF, provided largely unknown information about Indigenous war veterans. For example, although Indigenous men were exempted from conscription in WWI, approximately 4,000 volunteered and about 300 died. In total about 12,000 served in the 2 World Wars and Korea. Yet it wasn't until 1995 that they were allowed to lay wreathes to their dead at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.



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A guided tour of the Exhibit followed the talks. A large wall sized panel designed by Graphic Artist Sid Cho covered many of the outstanding Indigenous achievements from WWI to the present. Highlighted are: Francis Pegahmagabow who was a decorated Indigenous soldier in WWI. He fought in Ypres, Mt. Sorrel, the Somme, Passchendaele and was known as one of Canada's most deadly snipers. He was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and is only one of 38 soldiers to receive the Military Medal with 2 bars. After the war, he became a vocal advocate for Indigenous rights and self government.

Sgt. Tommy Prince was rejected many times when he tried to enlist for WWII. Once accepted, his career is legendary. He was a superb marksman and had exceptional tracking skills. He was soon promoted to Sergeant and drawn into the Special Services Forces – the Devils Brigade – where he performed outstanding service. He was decorated 9 times including the US Silver Star and the Military Medal which he received from King George VI at Buckingham Palace. He later served in the Korean conflict. After the war, he too advocated for Indigenous rights.

Col. Glenlyon Campbell joined the Canadian Army at the astounding age of 51. He formed a largely Indigenous battalion which he had to fight to keep together. Eventually he commanded his unit into the defining battles of Vimy Ridge and Hill 70. He was personally mentioned in despatches and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

The panel included Post War notable Indigenous people including: Steven Point – BC's Lieutenant Governor from 2007 to 2012; Deputy Commissioner Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Commanding Officer of 'E' Division (BC); and Jody Wilson-Raybould, Canada's current Minister of Justice.

This Exhibit is currently still on display.

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## **UNESCO and a Museum for Vancouver Chinatown**

By George Ing, CD LCol Retired RCAF, Director, CCMMS

On September 17, 2018, a large group of interested citizens gathered to hear BC Premier John Horgan and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson make an important announcement. The announcement was that the Province and Vancouver would sign a joint agreement to pursue a UNESCO designation as well as a museum for Vancouver Chinatown.

Presently, there exists a Chinese Museum and a Chinese Canadian Military Museum (CCMMS) in the Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC). Space is a major issue – particularly for the CCMMS, which changes exhibits several times a year and despite extremely limited space, draws overflowing crowds to opening exhibits including high level ministerial Federal, Provincial, Municipal Government officials as well as strong support and interest from businesses and the community.

While UNESCO and a museum may at first glance seem unrelated, there is a strong correlation. UNESCO is about showcasing distinctive cultures and museums are repositories for history and associated artifacts.



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Vancouver Chinatown is one of the largest Chinatowns in North America and during the growth of Vancouver, the area and its citizens were recipients of institutional discriminatory laws and practices. Prior to and during WWII, Chinese Canadians were restricted to living in Chinatown. The Head Tax was imposed only on the Chinese. Discrimination was rampant.

It was in Chinatown where a group of young Chinese Canadians gathered to consider whether to join in Canada's WWII fight against the Axis forces. Although they were born Canadian citizens, they could not vote, or work for the various levels of government – they could not become Engineers, Doctors, Teachers or any of the other professions. Yet they elected to fight for a country which denied them the many rights other citizens possessed. Approximately 600 did eventually join, despite early rejection, and served in all theatres of war performing competently, honourably and notably well. After WWII, the Veterans spearheaded the quest for full citizenship rights. Chinese Canadians received the vote in May 1947 and the 1923 Exclusion Act was removed, opening the flow of Chinese immigration. This history deserves and demands to be told in an appropriate museum.

The Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration (PCHC-MoM) Society was formed to tell the story of West Coast Migration. Since 2011, it has functioned as a museum without walls. It is time to provide walls. New York City has Ellis Island to house the history of “the huddled masses” that came to the US; San Francisco has the Angel Island Immigration Museum. Canada's East Coast has Pier 21. Canada's Pacific West Coast has a compelling history and deserves a museum of its own.

Not only do we have the immigration of the Chinese starting with the Gold Rush, but consider the dramatic role of the Chinese in completing the Canadian Pacific Railway which brought BC into confederation. There is also the little known passage of 80,000 Chinese Labor Corps (CLC) personnel from China through William Head, BC to the European theatre during WWI. Many historians credit the use of the CLC as being the deciding factor in winning WWI.

Furthermore there is the history of Canada's First Nations. Their lives have been profoundly and negatively affected by immigration. They too served loyally and bravely in the various wars. Still they faced degrading discrimination. Their stories deserved to be told and preserved. Then there is the interment of the Japanese during WWII. The Komagata Maru incident was an unfortunate part of Canada's history. Museums should not dwell solely on the problems of the past; they should show the progress that has occurred over the years to show Canada to be the liberal, democratic, multicultural country that it now is. But the past cannot and should not be forgotten.

Not only would a museum tell stories of our past but it would preserve them for future generations. The museum would also be a big draw to tourists as they visit a UNESCO Vancouver Chinatown.



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## Acknowledgements

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## **CELEBRATING CANADIAN VETERANS**

Commissionaires congratulates the CCMMS on celebrating 20 years since its foundation. This year also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the end of WW1, and we would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the contributions of Chinese–Canadian veterans.

As a contributing member to the safety of people and property, we appreciate all those who honorably served and continue to serve.

[commissionaires.bc.ca](http://commissionaires.bc.ca)