



Press Release

Immediate Release

September 16, 2021

A group of concerned Albertans support a national effort demanding federal party leaders' attention and commitment to combat anti-Asian racism and a strategy to build back Chinatowns across Canada.

Calgary-AB- Action Chinese Canadians Together (ACCT) including concerned seniors, youth and business owners offer their support to a national effort to garner political support from federal parties to combat anti-Asian discrimination and racism across Canada.

Disappearing Chinatowns is a sad reality that we have seen playing out in many cities throughout Canada and in North America for more than a decade. Many Chinatowns have also been disproportionately and negatively impacted by COVID-19, which also triggered widespread anti-Asian racism, discrimination, violence, and even death. Despite the security issues, we have seen a lack of discussion on the campaign trail during the federal election.

Alice Lam, "As young person,, I look to my government to lead and to be an ally to support my community. The erosion of Chinatowns is erasing part of Canadian history. We connected provinces east and west with the dangerous task of building the railroad. It's time we re-invested in an important space as we invested in Canada. It's the right thing to do."

Chinese leaders across Canada created a national survey and distributed it to federal party leaders to highlight this concern over the erosion and dismantling of Chinatowns across Canada. The group Canadians for a National Plan to Build Back Chinatowns asked federal parties for a commitment to support a strategy to combat anti-Asian hate as a critical element of their election platforms. Only one party responded.

Initially, a press conference was planned for Calgary but was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions and a state of emergency called by Alberta's Premier. However, concerned residents shared their stories in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

"Vancouver faced a 717% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes. Systemic barriers to accessing COVID programs for residents and businesses were laid bare. This was evidenced by barriers to accessing vaccinations by Chinese seniors in Chinatown and also by the non-racialized community of Granville Island receiving \$38 million in business supportive funding while the racialized Chinatown neighbourhood received nothing. Why are racialized communities not on equal footing? I call on federal leaders to address systemic racism preventing equal access," added Michael Tan, Co-Chair of the Vancouver Chinatown Legacy Stewardship Group.

For more information or to book an interview:

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Photos & video of Chinatowns across Canada are available upon request.