



2021-2022 Annual Report

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Foundation Board Member & Chair of ACCT Foundation

2021 to 2022 would be marked as a year of transition as the COVID pandemic wanes and the people as well as all facets of society start to move into somewhat uncharted environments as we realize we are not simply going back to what was considered normal pre-pandemic.

The ACCT Foundation also had to pivot and transition as we entered another year of rapid growth and change.

With our primary mandate to advance Chinese Canadian civic engagement and leadership development ACCT has delivered a *virtual* Aspire to Lead Chinese Canadian Leaders' Summit with over 200 participants including over 30 prominent leaders from diverse sectors and regions sharing their leadership journeys as well as responding to and addressing issue of racism and hate. The second Leaders' Summit once again offered a platform for dialogue; creating connections as well as the emergence of a set of strategic directions.

Participants in the Leaders' Summit 2021 deliberated on the underrepresentation of Chinese Canadian in leadership roles and how to effect change with the proposed strategic directions to focus on:

- Leadership advancement
- Building strategic alliances
- Advocacy and Communication
- ACCT as a platform for Chinese Canadians

One of the highlights of the 2021 Summit was an hour-long fire-side chat with the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau on topics of anti-Asian racism and its impacts on Chinese Canadians as well as the phenomenon of disappearing Chinatowns.

Similar to 2019, participants remarked that it was a life-changing experience, and that it was as if an 'aha' lightbulb went off in their head.



ACCT Foundation was recognized as a “Community of Care and the Summit, a unique space for Canadians of Chinese descent to connect, discover and explore collaborative and collective actions to address issues and concerns. Case in point is the 2021 Chinatown Roundtable that has led to broader recognitions on the need to engage beyond individual locales to Save Canada’s Disappearing Chinatowns.

ACCT Foundation is leading and supporting the efforts with a growing number of Chinese communities and leaders from across Canada. Community leadership together with reinvigorated public ownership for Chinatowns are bases for hope and measured optimism for public commitments to preserve this Canadian heritage and revitalize these communities of historical, cultural as well as economic significance.

ACCT pivoted and delivered a total of four online Leadership training workshops – two Aspire to Act Leadership Training Programs and two Public Appointment Intensive Workshops with highly positive evaluations. One of the unique aspects of the ACCT Leadership program is the interactive approach that encourages the sharing of perspectives, experiences and insights that surface and examine social factors and processes such as identity, culture and socialization within the Canadian context and how they may impact leadership development and advancement.

Many Canadians of Chinese descent are well-positioned and ready to serve on public entities bringing needed diversity of experiences, perspectives and leadership to enhance decision-making and the development of democratic institutions in our pluralistic and culturally diverse Canada. Development of a youth leadership training toolkit and a Training program on organizational change for communities will be completed in 2022. Moving forward ACCT needs to develop a business model to market and sustain the delivery of this unique training program that was three years in the making.

ACCT Foundation continued to lead efforts to address anti-Asian racism through supporting and facilitating the Asian Canadians Together -ACT2EndRacism Network – established to ‘react’ to the resurgence of anti-Asian racism through collaborative and collective efforts amongst East and South East Asian Canadian communities across Canada. There are disturbing signs pointing to the threats of xenophobia including anti-Asian racism is not diminishing and the needs for building alliances; community capacity building and collective advocacy remains strong. ACCT is the lead agency of the Network to explore the next phase of this currently ad hoc entity through research, community consultations and facilitated deliberations with funding from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. A Canadian Heritage grant is enabling the Network to engage education systems to utilize community educational resources to counter anti-Asian racism during Asian Heritage Month as well as engaging relevant entities about the need to address the underreporting of hate and racist incidents amongst Asian Canadians in 2022.

As various levels of governments across the country continue to address systemic racism through corporate plans and programs as well as policies -more notable is the Federal government’s renewal of Canada’s Anti-Racism Strategy, proposed Combating Hate and On-line Safety legislations; ACCT Foundation and Network



members are well positioned to engage in and contribute to these policy discourses and the succeeding stages of these policies.

ACCT's capacity to respond to and facilitate the engagement of the broader communities to issues of concern must be evidence based with sound analysis in order to formulate thoughtful recommendations and interventions. This would require the Foundation possessing the capacity to conduct and utilize research. Major ACCT initiatives such as our leadership initiative and the ACT2EndRacism Network have contributed to the development of the Foundation's research capability. The "Building anti-racism capacity through mental health research, resources and training project" funded by Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada will enable ACCT to strengthen our research base. The research component will provide ACCT, the Network and the public a deeper understanding on Asian Canadians' experience with and impacts by racism as well as support to enhance the well-being of those impacted.

The membership of the ACCT Leadership Training Institute Wisdom Council, created for those who have broken grounds and bamboo ceilings share experiences with emerging leaders; and the 2022 Chinese Canadian Leaders' Roundtable are bright indicators of the resonance to ACCT's vision and mandate to enhance civic engagement and leadership of Chinese Canadians.

Our focus on Chinese Canadian leadership advancement; addressing issues of equity and inclusion; and commitments to collaboration and community engagement at a national level require ACCT to articulate our theory and strategies on community outreach and engagement moving forward.

2023 will be a momentous year as we commemorate the centenary of the Chinese Exclusion Act – a defining public policy that has immense impact on the development of the Chinese Canadian community. ACCT is working in earnest on the 2023 Aspire to Act Chinese Canadian Leaders' Summit to continue and expand the important dialogues on advancing full and meaningful engagement of Chinese Canadians; inspiring and empowering the next generation of civic leaders; and charting paths for positive changes.

It has been an incredible five years of development from conception of an idea to solve a problem to formation of a shared vision and establishing an entity to carry out the mission. ACCT Foundation has overcome numerous challenges during these formative years; but more important to note is we have created a path that more people would journey with us each year and enjoyed the tremendous support and contributions from many people along the way—our dedicated staff, community partners, volunteers, government and funding bodies. On behalf of the Board of Directors of ACCT Foundation we extend our most sincere appreciation for all the support we have received from all of you.

Teresa Woo-Paw