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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Kelley, Gil" <[Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca)>

"Singh, Sandra" <[Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca)>

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**Date:** 11/7/2019 2:26:57 PM

**Subject:** Memo - Provincial Chinese Canadian Museum Update and Next Steps

**Attachments:** ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - Chinatown Transformation - CCM (2019-11-07)....pdf

Appendix A - ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - Chinatown Transformation - CCM....pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached you will find a memo from Sandra Singh, General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services regarding the Chinese Canadian Museum. Highlights include:

- ☐ Context on the September 2018 City-Province MOU;
- ☐ Information on the potential for establishing the Chinese Canadian Museum Provincial Hub and short term goals;
- ☐ Next steps including the launch and announcement of the project office.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Sandra Singh directly at [Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca) or Gil Kelley at [gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager  
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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

## MEMORANDUM

November 7, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Gil Kelly, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability  
Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Provincial Chinese Canadian Museum Update and Next Steps

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide background and context for the Chinese Canadian Museum, an update on work to date, and to outline next steps.

### BACKGROUND

Since the late 1700s, Chinese Canadians have been among the earliest of settlers in the Province of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver and have made significant contributions to the social, economic and cultural lives of the Province and the City. To acknowledge historical wrongs and discriminatory legislation imposed on Chinese Canadians by past governments, the Province made a formal apology to the Chinese Canadian community in 2014. The City of Vancouver made a similar apology in April 2018 with the guidance of a diverse advisory group comprising of Chinese and non-Chinese experts, community elders and advocates, historians, veterans and their descendants. The City of Vancouver apology was accompanied by a series of recommendations, including establishing a community stewardship group, exploring the feasibility of a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation application, and co-developing a long-term plan centering Chinatown's living heritage and cultural assets with the community. These recommendations form the short and long-term commitments that guide current work in Chinatown.

In September 2018, the City of Vancouver and the Province of BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (attached as Appendix A) to work in partnership with several distinct, yet interrelated goals, including pursuing UNESCO World Heritage status designation for Vancouver's Chinatown as per Council direction, considerations related to the City supporting



the Province in delivering on its commitment to establish a Provincial Chinese Canadian Museum (the Museum), as well as a number of other projects and activities.

City of Vancouver efforts have been led by the Chinatown Transformation Team (CTT), a cross-departmental unit, co-led by Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability and Arts, Culture and Community Services, in collaboration with other business units, and various Province of BC Ministries.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

Within the context of the September 2018 City-Province MOU, Arts, Culture and Community Services received a \$1M grant from the Province in February 2019 to support early preparation work for the establishment of a non-profit province-wide entity to provide governance and oversight to the ongoing development of the Provincial Museum and to undertake some early work related to the establishment of the museum itself. The work is happening as a close collaboration between the Province of BC, guided by the Chinese Canadian Museum Working Group, and the City's Cultural Services Department, supported by the CTT.

Cultural Services and the CTT are currently actively supporting the Province of BC's Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture by participating in senior staff oversight of the initiative, providing community-informed process advice, and providing interim project management for a number of short term goals, including identifying governance models for a non-profit entity to oversee and manage the new Museum.

### *Establishing a Provincial Hub*

In line with the efforts described above, the Province of BC's Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, the City of Vancouver (ACCS), and the Chinese Cultural Centre will be signing a tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding on November 7, 2019. The purpose of this tri-partite MOU is to explore the potential for establishing the Chinese Canadian Museum Provincial Hub within the Chinese Cultural Centre complex in Vancouver Chinatown, on land currently leased by the CCC from the City of Vancouver.

Further short term goals include:

- Producing a business case for the Museum, delivered by an expert third party consultant;
- Negotiating a sublease with the Chinese Cultural Centre for a commercial space to service as the Museum's project office, incl. outfitting and setting up the project office with furniture and utilities;
- Coordinating a pop-up Museum exhibit in the office space;
- Overseeing the process to contract further project management services;
- Updating the Province on the Chinatown Transformation Team's cultural asset mapping and inventory data visualization work, and identifying possible ways that the City and Province can work together on a map of cultural assets for both Chinatown and broader Museum work;
- Supporting Indigenous engagement for the province-wide mandate of the project; and,
- Supporting the Province on continued consultation with the Chinatown community.

## NEXT STEPS

The main focus for CTT staff is the launch and announcement of the project office (the Event). The Province has selected November 8, 2019 at 11:00am for the Event, which will also highlight the \$1M grant that the City has received from the Province to undertake preparation work for the Museum.

Minister George Chow (Minister of State for Trade) and Minister Lisa Beare (Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture) will attend the Event. Premier John Horgan will not be attending. The new Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism, Anne Kang, will be available to serve as the MC for the announcement.

CTT and City staff are supporting Province staff on overall coordination for the event, and continue delivery of the short term goals.

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Please contact Sandra Singh General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services ([sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)) if you have further questions about the museum or both Sandra Singh and Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability ([gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca)) if you have any questions related to the broader work on Chinatown.

Sincerely,



Sandra Singh  
General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
604.871.6858 | [sandra.singh@vancouver.ca](mailto:sandra.singh@vancouver.ca)

BH/bc

Attachment – Appendix A: CCM MoU – September 18, 2018





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## BACKGROUND

Chinese Canadians have been amongst the earliest migrants to arrive in the Province of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver. Since the late 1700's, individuals from this community have made – and continue to make – significant contributions to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the Province and the City.

Despite these contributions past governments have imposed legislation to limit the rights of Chinese Canadians as citizens and their ability to participate in the public sphere. To acknowledge the historical wrongs created by discriminatory legislation, the Province and the City made formal apologies to the Chinese Canadian community in 2014 and 2018, respectively.

To ensure their apologies are accompanied by a commitment to reconciliation, the Province and the City will work together on legacy initiatives that acknowledge the heritage and history of the Chinese Canadian community, and their experiences.

Chinatowns around the world represent the stories, struggles, and achievements of Chinese immigrants and their families. Vancouver's Chinatown is also a powerful symbol that speaks to the human struggle against discrimination, the desire to create a more just and equitable place to live, and the determination of people and communities who seek to reimagine the idea of home.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site designation, would recognize the importance of Vancouver's Chinatown as a site of historical significance for the people of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the world – today and for future generations.





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## PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Recognizing the historical and contemporary significance of Vancouver's Chinatown, the Province and the City are committed to working in partnership with the goal of pursuing a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for Vancouver's Chinatown;

In support of designation efforts, a Chinese Canadian Museum will be established by the Province and the City. It will share the important stories, histories and achievements of Chinese Canadians in the Province and the City from the earliest days to the present, and will be an effective conduit in fostering intergroup dialogue and understanding into the future; and

This Memorandum of Understanding commits the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia:

- To work together on initiatives and develop a long term plan that will enable a successful UNESCO nomination for Vancouver's Chinatown as a World Heritage Site. Both parties make this commitment in recognition of the synergies and opportunities to conserve, commemorate and enhance the living heritage and cultural assets of Vancouver's Chinatown for all Canadians;
- To honor the living heritage and cultural assets of the Chinese Canadian community, the Province and the City will work with the community to establish a Chinese Canadian Museum; and
- To engage and collaborate with the Chinese Canadian community throughout the process

Signed this 17th day of September, 2018 in the City of Vancouver and in the Province of British Columbia.

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

John Horgan  
Premier



CITY OF VANCOUVER

Gregor Robertson  
Mayor







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# Memorandum of Understanding

Dated for reference the 17th day of September, 2018

*between*

the Province of British Columbia of Canada

(hereafter referred to as "the Province")

*and*

the City of Vancouver

(hereafter referred to as "the City")

(collectively referred to as the 'Parties')