



# 卡城華人社區服務中心

Calgary Chinese Community Service Association  
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## Newsletter

Editor: Jim Wong

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### Chinatown working together to face flooding

By Lily Kwok – Executive Director

Starting from June 20, when Chinatown was declared one of the evacuation zones, CCCSA had been working hard together with other community organizations to evacuate people by helping police to spread the word, putting up evacuation notice, doing door knocking to ask people to leave, arranging people to live in shelters as well as helping them settle after the flood. During the days of evacuation, CCCSA set up a generator to generate power and turned itself into a command center in Chinatown to ensure communication is available.



A few days later, we started the planning for their re-entry. An ad hoc committee was formed named as 'Arriving Home Coordinating Committee'. Through this committee, we worked with the building managers to see how their buildings were affected and their plan for re-entry. Once we got the plan, we then gathered volunteers to help the



residents to clean up their fridge and bring them food as no food were left once their rotten food were cleared. There were no restaurants or grocery shops opened yet.



Special thanks to Tzu Chi Foundation of Canada (慈濟加拿大分會) for donating all the meals during our difficult time, they even sent a team of volunteers from Vancouver

to support our Calgary Chinatown. There are numerous donors who donated supplies, such as Holt Renfrew, Shaw Cable, Tim Horton's... just to name a few. Volunteers worked with dedication to cleanup Chinatown in addition to helping people return to their homes. Many volunteers went to small businesses and organizations to clear the debris. They worked long hours and when they returned, their clothes were all muddy but they always come back with a smile, telling us how great it was to give back to the community. These volunteers are our true heroes.



The provincial government was quick to announce a number of measures to help people affected by the flood, such as the pre-loaded debit card; special unemployment (EI) program. CCCSA responded quickly by gathering the volunteers to help residents apply for these benefits as many people are facing language barriers and are not able to access these services.

Re-vitalizing Chinatown is a long journey, we will continue our contribution by working together with the community for further planning, but we believe that 'Together We Can'.

### To our many funders, thank you!



Also a big thank you to our many sponsors and friends of CCCSA!

## Discovery trip to China for eminent young overseas Chinese, 2013

By Princeton Lau, co-chair of CCCSA

*NOTE: Princeton Lau, Eric Sit and Tommy Lau were the three from Calgary invited to attend this event.*

What if you could go on a vacation with a hundred of your friends, wouldn't that be nice? What if you could also learn more about your culture and your roots at the same time? The Chinese government hosts an event that answers these questions and more!

This biannual conference is hosted by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, a branch of the Chinese government that liaises with overseas Chinese. Its aim is to promote a deeper understanding of China and build relationships, they are promoting the 'China dream', to have a strong and vibrant country!

The trip was split into two parts, the first part was a three day conference in Beijing, and the second, a four day trip to one of five different places to visit, Beijing, Shandong, Zhejiang, Henan or Shaanxi. I chose to visit Shaanxi as I haven't been before and it seemed to have a very deep history!



There were about 500 delegates at the conference from 74 different countries, ranging from Argentina all the way to Zimbabwe!

Each person was chosen because they made significant contributions to their society, be it through business, politics or social welfare. It was fantastic meeting all these Chinese people living in such far flung lands!

The opening ceremonies were held at the Great Hall of the People, just off Tiananmen Square; I felt very special to have been there! Afterwards, there were lectures focused on China's economy, foreign relations and culture.

The underlying theme is that China is not only a nation, which was born in the past hundred years, but it is a civilization state, built upon thousands of years of history. There are benefits to having such continuity and authority, such as being able to make sound decisions quickly. It isn't perfect, and some of the speakers were honest about that, but it seems to work in China! After learning more about Chinese politics and governance, we were treated to wonderful performances and dinners. The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office were wonderful hosts throughout the trip, practically having a banquet of one sort or another every night!

The latter half of the trip was a great experience in Shaanxi with approximately 110 of the 500 participants choosing to visit here as well! Shaanxi was one of the earliest centers of Chinese civilizations and 13 dynasties made the city of Xian their capitals! We visited many significant places, the Shaanxi history museum, the Terra-cotta warriors, ancient imperial bathing grounds (Huaqing springs), the mausoleum of the first emperor (Huangdi ling) as well as the Master of medicine mountain (Yaowang shan), named after a famed doctor who lived there in the Tang dynasty! I was most impressed with the Terra-cotta warriors and Huangdi's memorial, there is just so much history there!

Even though this tour was about a week long, the organizers did such a wonderful job of ensuring that we got the most out of our trip, every day was packed with memorable experiences! We learnt a lot about the Chinese system in Beijing and we felt first-hand, China's vast history in Shaanxi province. It was great learning so much about the systems and history in China, but the most important thing I gained, was the connections to many others like myself, overseas Chinese trying to make a difference! And we can make a difference by helping others understand Chinese cultures and customs!

## Hakuna Matata: A Tanzanian field school experience

By Samantha Cheuk, Director, Board of CCCSA

It has been two months since I have returned from what I considered to be one of the most perspective-changing experiences of my life. For a period of 30 days I went to the beautiful East African country of Tanzania to conduct global health research funded through the Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE). For my research, I interviewed local community members living in the rural Ngorongoro Conservation Area about their perspectives and knowledge on causes of fever other than malaria.

My understanding of the world has shifted dramatically since returning to Canada. Certain vocabulary, such as poverty, take on a new meaning and images I associate with words become much more vivid. On my trip, I realized that the opportunities afforded to people depend so much upon where they were born and what resources are available to them. Despite not having much, many Tanzanians that I met are incredibly resilient and generous. There's a common Swahili phrase, Hakuna matata, popularized in North America from the Walt Disney movie, The Lion King that I think helps Tanzanians remain optimistic. Hakuna matata means "no worries" and the phrase brings the Disney song to my ears and a smile to my face.



View from the Ngorongoro Crater Rim

Hakuna matata was a phrase that was easy for me to recall, but learning a new language is not easy. In Tanzania, a country made of up more than 100 different tribes of people, it is fortunate that they have two unifying national languages: Swahili and English. Luckily for me, people were patient with my developing language skills as I tried to learn basic dialogue. Much like the work that CCCSA currently conducts to assist new immigrants to Canada become more engaged and involved in Canadian culture, the people I encountered in Tanzania encouraged me to embrace and participate in their unique culture. In the midst of reminiscing about my time in Tanzania, the focus of CCCSA in building bridges between their members and the wider community becomes increasingly important from my broadened perspective.



Picture from Google Images

The programs that are provided are essential for helping newcomers feel welcome, appreciated and empowered to help themselves and help one another. These acts of community-building are the stepping stones for a cohesive and equitable global community. **Let's go!**

## CCCSA hiking to Johnston Canyon at Banff

By Jim Wong, Director, Board of CCCSA

On August 4, 2013 a beautiful Sunday, Kevin Yau, our Integration and Civic Engagement (Family) Coordinator organized this outing. The purpose of the outing was to get the newcomers/immigrants out to experience and enjoy the many splendors of our Calgary surroundings. It is also a great opportunity for social engagement and network building.



Unfortunately this year due to the flooding, we were not able to do many of these. Here is hoping for better weather for the remainder of this summer.

Approximately 50 people, old and young participated in this outing. We are especially pleased that one special healthy and happy lady that was 85 years old joined us in this hike. Not only that, but she also made wonderful Chinese pastry for all of us to enjoy.

## Seniors scam

By Jim Wong, Director, Board of CCCSA

# 'Grandparent scam' keeps targeting seniors' savings

DOUGLAS QUAN  
POSTMEDIA NEWS

The scam begins innocently enough. "Hi, grandma," the voice of a grandchild might say, "I've just received a letter from the bank saying you have a large sum of money in your name. I'm coming to see you in a few days. I'm in dire straits, and I need your help. I've been in the hospital for several months from a Canadian scammer. American officials have gone so far



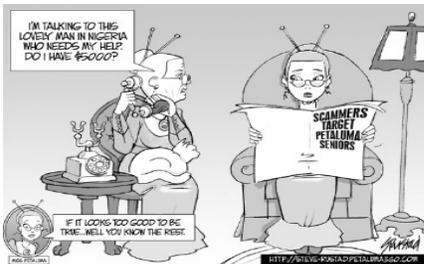
Fraudsters keep duping seniors into sending money to people purporting to be their grandchildren who are in trouble.

... money as a way to ... tricks. They also tend to use prepaid, disposable cellphones. Grandparents who fall victim to the scam sometimes suffer not just a loss of their savings; it can cause family division. It is not uncommon for the person purporting to be the grandchild to say to the target: "Don't tell your parents." The grandparent, wanting to help their grandchild, does as they're told. When parents eventually learn what happened, they become upset, Williams said.

Recently, an elderly lady came into our office asking for clarification on why we wanted to visit her. We were totally surprised because CCCSA does not make house calls. Apparently someone contacted her and mentioned CCCSA wanted to visit her home on Sunday morning. Fearing someone was using our name inappropriately to take advantage of her, we had a staff member accompanied her at the meeting. It turned out that this was a big miscommunication. The person visiting this elderly was from home care to explain to her the use of the different medications. We are pleased that this was a happy ending! However, it could have been a lot different.

Scams are prevalent. It is estimated that over a billion dollars are scammed each year. These are the ones that are reported. How much more are unreported? The elderly immigrants are especially vulnerable because they are often lonely, age vulnerable and their generation tends to be more trusting. This is real fertile ground for the con artists.

Scammers and fraudsters are very smart people. They will play on the victim's trust and build relationship before going for the con. Here are some examples:



A person in Nigeria needed help and asked you to send money.



Your computer is infected and they will get rid of the virus.



There is a real estate deal that can double your money quickly.

The victims not only suffer financial loss, but also often times ruined family lives, loss of personal dignity and because the elderly are less tolerant to stress can sometimes lead to suicides.

There is no sure way to avoid becoming a victim, although I wish there was. Probably one way that can help is to use a phrase from a popular TV show and that is to tell the person that you wanted to "Call a friend" and get back to him/her later. This strategy allow you to delay the decision and possibly get advice from someone. Con Artists don't have patience and they are focused on just you at this time.

A lot of scams are not reported mainly because victims are too ashamed to report it once they realized that they have been duped. There is no shame in reporting it and hopefully help others from falling into the same trap.

In conclusion, everyone must beware of scams and take appropriate precautions because the world is full of trickery, but it is still a beautiful world.

**THANK YOU TO THE MANY SPONSORS AND FRIENDS OF CCCSA.  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.CCCSA.CA](http://WWW.CCCSA.CA) FOR THE LATEST PROGRAMS AND EVENTS.**

**WE INVITE YOU TO BE A FRIEND OF CCCSA IN FACEBOOK.**

**IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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