

Government's apology for Chinese head tax holds special meaning for MP

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Special to The IFP

An apology last week from the federal Conservative government for a discriminatory tax imposed on Chinese immigrants to Canada holds special meaning for Michael Chong.

The Conservative MP for Wellington-Halton Hills sees it as a promise that his father's experiences as an immigrant from Hong Kong will never be repeated.



MICHAEL CHONG

"It's a recognition of the work that people like my father did in coming to this country and building this country to what it is today," Chong said.

"This symbolically states that the government of Canada is committed to building a just and equitable society."

About 81,000 Chinese had to pay a head tax to enter Canada— \$50 between 1885 and 1903, and \$500 for the next 20 years.

Then in 1923, Chinese immigration was effectively banned until 1947.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized for the tax, and offered \$20,000 in compensation for any living head-tax payers or their widows.

It's estimated about 400 people will be eligible.

Chong's late father, Paul, immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong in 1952— five years after the Chinese exclusion act was repealed. It was difficult for him to find work and adjust to life in a new country, Chong said.

"I can tell you he faced barriers that I will never know, and he faced challenges that I never faced and I will never face," he said.

While his family never had to pay the head tax, the issue still resonates among the Chinese-Canadian community, said Chong, who noted there are more than 1.5 million Canadians of Chinese descent.

"The Chinese community has not tended to be a very vocal community," he said.

"But there is some very deep-seated anguish and pain that this caused to many thousands of families in this country."

From a political perspective, apologizing for the head tax will probably win points for the Conservatives as they try to reach immigrant communities, said Guelph political scientist

Judith McKenzie.

"For Harper and the Reform Party sort of group within the new Conservative party, this is a way to assure the public that they are quite liberal as it relates to this," she said.

Theresa Lee, a political-science professor at the University of Guelph who immigrated from Hong Kong in the 1980s, said the latest move seems to be part of a larger trend of the Canadian government coming to terms with its past injustices. But the most important thing, she said, is making sure they don't repeat history.

"To recognize a past wrong is really just a step toward a society that really respects each individual, regardless of his or her ethnicity and culture," Lee said.

"The more sensitive issue is whether the Canadian government, and the Canadian people as a whole, can address the issue of discrimination in the here and now."

Chong said the fact he is a member of the federal cabinet is a sign that the Conservative government is committed to equality and inclusion.

"It's a role that says all Canadians— Canadians of Chinese descent, Canadians from other ethno-cultural groups— are full participants in society," said Chong, the minister of intergovernmental affairs and minister for sport.

"In (Harper) naming me to the post he did, I think that was a real signal to the community that we're serious about that agenda, that we're serious about including all people."

Province honours Acton volunteer

Ralph Vliestra of Acton was recently honoured by the Province with an Ontario Volunteer Service Award at a ceremony in Barrie.

The Volunteer Service Awards recognize volunteers for their continuous years of commitment and service to a group.

Volunteer Service Award recipients are presented with stylized trillium pins and personalized certificates at special ceremonies held across the province.

Vliestra was recognized for his 15 years of volunteering with Georgian Bay Steam Automotives Gas Antiques Inc.

Washer fluid heater recalled

Canadian Tire is recalling its Motomaster HotWash Windshield Washer Fluid heater due to a manufacturing defect reports Halton Hills Fire Protection & Prevention Services.

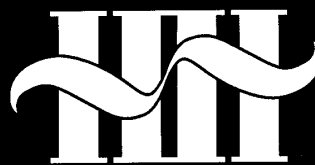
A defective relay mechanism in some of the units is defective, causing the potential for the relay to stick and overheat.

Customers can identify defective units by checking the outer casing of the product. If it contains the words 'patent pending,' the unit is not defective and therefore not included in the recall.

Units that don't contain the 'patent pending' reference may be defective and customers should call 1-866-670-9962 to determine if their unit is included in the recall and get a free replacement unit.

While Canadian Tire hasn't been notified of any injury caused by the potential defect, the company has received 11 separate reports of incidents in which the heater started smoking.

Customers are requested to immediately discontinue use of the heater.



TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
Working Together Working for You!

COURTESY NOTICE

The 2006 Glen Williams Canada Day Celebration will take place in the Glen Williams Park July 1st. Please note that during the period of July 1st, normal park operations will be suspended. Contact the Recreation and Parks Department at (905) 873-2601, ext. 2269 for more information. 97

TAX INSTALMENT

NOTICE TO HALTON HILLS TAXPAYERS

The first instalment of the 2006 Final Tax Bill is due on:

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

PAYMENT OF TAXES

WHERE?

- Finance Department, Civic Centre (8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday), or
- Any branch of the Royal Bank located within the Town of Halton Hills (may be subject to a service charge)
- Payments may be left at the Halton Hills Hydro Office (no receipts issued)

AFTER HOURS?

- Royal Bank branches during scheduled hours of service
- Drop Box located next to main entrance of Civic Centre available 24 hours

HOW?

- By CHEQUE or CASH
- POST-DATED cheques are acceptable and will ensure that instalment dates are not missed
- INTERAC - in person at the Civic Centre
- By TELEPHONE: Check with your bank for further information.
- PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN: For details please call the Tax Department at 905-873-2601, ext. 2930.

LATE PAYMENTS?

- A late payment charge of 1-1/4 per cent per month will be charged on the first day of each calendar month until taxes are paid.

NO TAX BILL?

- Bills were mailed June 7, 2006. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the Owner from responsibility for payment, nor relieve him/her from liability for late payment charges. Please contact the Finance Department if you did not receive yours.

NEW PROPERTIES?

- Newly built properties are likely to have tax bills related to their land value assessment only until full assessment is applied and supplementary taxes are billed. Owners are responsible for taxes billed and should make provisions for the future billing of supplementary taxes.

SENIOR'S TAX GRANT?

- To qualify for the Senior's Tax Grant applicants must be 65 years of age, own and occupy property in the Town of Halton Hills for one year and be in receipt of the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Applications are available from the Tax Department and will automatically be mailed to those who qualified last year.

QUESTIONS?

- If you have any questions concerning realty property taxes, call the Finance Department at 905-873-2601, ext. 2930, write to us at the address below or check our web site at www.haltonhills.ca
- For assessment related questions, please call the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation at 1-866-296-6722 or check their web site at www.mpac.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY STANDARDS OFFICER Posting No. 200627

Reporting to the Manager of Licensing and Legislative Services, this full time position is responsible for enforcing the Town's by-laws and standards related to the health, safety, and well-being of the inhabitants of the community and the environment.

Responsibilities:

- Respond to complaints and inquiries from the public, staff, outside agencies, and other enforcement or inspection units regarding municipal law enforcement, licensing, and property/community standard issues.
- Investigate complaints and conduct site inspections.
- Conduct proactive enforcement initiatives and special projects, as directed.
- Educate offenders, mediate disputes and negotiate compliance.
- Collect evidence, obtain statements from witnesses, prepare and swear to informations, affidavits, subpoenas and summonses and provide service of same.
- Initiate action by issuing a Notice or Order to effect resolution.
- Follow-up on investigations in a timely manner including issuing Work Orders, Part I tickets/summons or Part III summons, laying charges, and taking corrective action when necessary to bring matter to a closure.
- Testify as a witness for the Town at court, hearings, and appeals.
- Search corporate records, assessment records, property title and other municipal records.
- Prepare and present reports to Council or Committees, as required.
- Occasional evening and weekend investigation work required.

Qualifications:

- Community College Diploma in law enforcement, a related field or equivalent.
- 7 years proven experience in the enforcement of a wide range of municipal by-laws or other legislation.
- Municipal Law Enforcement Certification
- Certified Property Standards Officer
- Valid Ontario Class "G" Drivers Licence and use of a reliable vehicle.
- Thorough knowledge of Municipal By-laws relating to community and property standards, licensing, nuisances, and Provincial Statutes including the Municipal Act and Provincial Offences Act.
- Sound judgment, analytical, and decision-making skills.
- Strong public relations, communications and negotiation skills.
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office and Amanda software.
- Ability to maintain client confidentiality.

Salary Range: \$52,710 - \$62,751 per annum

Qualified candidates may submit a detailed resume in confidence by **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 14, 2006**. Please quote Posting No. 20027 on your resume.

Ms. Jacqueline Kerr
Manager of Human Resources
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2
Fax: (905) 873-1431
Email: humanresources@haltonhills.ca

We thank all those who apply, but advise that only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 (S.O. 2001, c.25) and will be used to select a candidate. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Manager of Human Resources.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WANTED HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING

A select number of homeowners in the area will be given the opportunity to have a lifetime **INTERLOCK SHINGLE** roof installed on their home at a reasonable cost!

If we could use your home in our campaign to showcase the look of our "Slate" or "Cedar Shingle" roof, we will definitely make it worth your while. Interlock shingles are guaranteed for a lifetime and are available in a choice of colours to complement any home.

As a display home participant, you will receive attractive savings and will have access to our special O.A.C. low interest unsecured bank financing.

This limited offer will be serviced on a first come, first serve basis.

Call today to see if your home qualifies.

1-888-999-6902

www.ontariosbestroof.com

Will contact within 4 working days



Stick with your high blood pressure treatment, or you may be in for a nasty surprise.



Canadian Coalition for High Blood Pressure Prevention and Control
<http://ccoha.library.mun.ca/bp>