City of New Westminster

R E P O R T

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

To:	Mayor W. Wright and Members of Council in Committee of the Whole	Date:	June 28, 2010
From:	Lisa Spitale, Director of Development Services	File:	#135570

Subject: Chinese Reconciliation Process – Recommended Steps and Actions

RECOMMENDATION

THAT *Council endorse the package of steps and actions in support of reconciliation with the Chinese community.*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of the consultation process and to seek Council's endorsement of a package of steps and actions in support of reconciliation with the Chinese community.

SUMMARY

The Chinese Reconciliation Process, initiated by Council on July 13, 2009, is the first of its kind undertaken by a municipality in Canada. As such, there has been much interest in the process, particularly by the Chinese community and media.

The process involved two distinct phases. The first involved extensive research on the history of racism and discrimination against the Chinese community in New Westminster and the role, if any, that the City played in these events. This research, which took eight months to complete and covered the period from 1860 to 1926, indicated that the City discriminated against its Chinese community in two primary ways – i.e., restricting employment opportunities and making requests to the senior levels of government. Based on the research findings, Council directed City staff to enter into a discussion with the Chinese community around possible steps and actions in support of reconciliation.

The second phase involved a consultation process with the Chinese community. This process included a public forum, an on-line feedback form to solicit input, and meetings with organizations which represent larger constituencies. The City's Multiculturalism Advisory Committee also played a role, as it reviewed the feedback form results and

made a number of suggested actions for Council's consideration. In total, about 150 people were involved in the process.

Based on the consultation, the vast majority of participants felt that reconciliation was warranted, with many noting that it is a process and that its primary objective is the restoration of a relationship. Close to 50 suggestions were made in support of reconciliation; however, there were about seven suggestions that resonated with seven or more participants and were cited by organizations that represent larger constituencies. Key among them was a public acknowledgement by Council that the City had participated in past discrimination against its Chinese community. As for a public apology, while there was not unanimous support, it was felt that it would be a logical next step and would provide a sense of closure.

BACKGROUND

On May 21, 2009, Bill Chu, Chair and Founder, Canadians for Reconciliation Society, forwarded an e-mail to the City on the past policies of the BC Provincial Government towards the Chinese. This e-mail also made several references to past policies and practices of the City of New Westminster.

At the Council meeting of June 1, 2009, Mr. Chu made a presentation. As part of this presentation, he requested that the City enter into a reconciliation process with its Chinese community.

At the Council meeting of July 13, 2009, Council approved the following motion:

> *Reconciliation with the Chinese Community:*
>
> ***WHEREAS** Canadians for Reconciliation had made a presentation to Council on past treatment of the Chinese community in New Westminster;*
> ***WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster has created a Multiculturalism Advisory Committee and pursued policies that are opposed to all forms of racism and discrimination; and*
> ***WHEREAS** the Chinese community is an important part of the multicultural fabric of the City of New Westminster;*
> ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff research the history of racism and discrimination against the Chinese community and any role the City played in these events with attention paid to issues identified by Canadians for Reconciliation Society; and*
> ***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City conduct a consultation process with all Chinese groups and peoples involved in the City as to appropriate measures to be taken to address these long standing issues.*

At the Council meeting of August 31, 2009, Council endorsed a City staff report that outlined a proposed reconciliation process with the Chinese community. As part of this report, it called for the preparation of a background paper on the history of racism and discrimination against the Chinese community in New Westminster, and the role, if any, that the City played in these events. It also called for a consultation process to share the results of the research and, if directed to so by Council, to enter into a discussion regarding appropriate steps and actions in support of reconciliation.

On March 22, 2010, City staff brought a Report to Council, based on a review of Council minutes between 1860 and 1926, which indicated that City actions towards the Chinese community fell into four general categories:

1. Employment Opportunities
2. Land and Buildings
3. City Regulations
4. Requests to the Senior Levels of Government

With respect to 1) and 4), the evidence indicated that the City discriminated against its Chinese community. With respect to 2) and 3), there was insufficient evidence to clearly conclude that the City acted in a discriminatory manner as many other citizens were also affected and caught up in the application of the City bylaws.

Based on the research, City staff made the following recommendation, which was unanimously endorsed by Council:

> ***THAT*** *the first phase of the Chinese Reconciliation Process be concluded; and*
> ***THAT*** *staff be directed to commence the second phase of the project to enter into a discussion regarding appropriate steps and actions towards reconciliation.*

EXISTING POLICY/PRACTICE

The City of New Westminster's Official Community Plan (1998) includes the following goals under Quality of Life Issues:

- *foster multicultural understanding and promote harmonious intercultural relations;*
- *continue to work towards meeting the cultural needs of the community; and*
- *promote New Westminster as a healthy community and encourage diversity at the neighbourhood scale and the provision of complete communities.*

In November 2007, Council established a Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC). The purpose of this body, which has been meeting on a monthly basis since its inception, "is to promote multiculturalism and race relations within the City of New Westminster

and to foster engagement by all citizens in civic affairs and community life." One of its primary objectives is "to foster an awareness about and understanding of the City's multicultural population."

As a first task, the MAC revised the City's Multicultural Policy (drafted in April 1996). The revision cited diversity as a source of enrichment and strength and made specific reference to not condoning racism or discrimination. The MAC also developed a detailed implementation plan in support of the revised policy.

On October 20, 2008, the City, on behalf of ten other agencies, successfully applied for funding under the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Program. The key deliverable was a Community Partnership Development Charter which incorporated a shared vision, indicators of success and an action plan in support of creating a more welcoming and inclusive community.

Based on the Charter, the City coordinated a process whereby member agencies worked together to develop a proposal titled 'Reach Out New West … Greet, Inform, Connect.' This proposal and two subsequent proposals under the same funding stream have been approved for a total of $415,000. The initiatives include a Community Gateway Project, an Immigrant Mentorship Program, a Newcomers' Guide to New Westminster and a Youth Popular Theatre Project.

On March 21, 2009, the City met with key representatives of the Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) of Vancouver. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues which had arisen regarding the Chinese community in New Westminster and to identify areas where the City and the CBA could collaborate in the future.

On June 25, 2010, the City held a meeting of all settlement and integration agencies which provide programs and services in New Westminster. The purpose of this meeting was to share information and to explore ways of enhancing inter-agency collaboration and service coordination.

CONSULTATION PROCESSS AND RESULTS

Throughout the consultation process, there were many positive comments regarding Council initiating the Chinese Reconciliation Process. It was noted that the process is a courageous, righteous and significant step towards reconciliation and an "invitation to work together to create a better New Westminster." Several organizations expressed genuine appreciation and gratitude and emphasized that the process is being viewed favourably by the Chinese community, both in Canada and in China. One organization stated that this "strengthened relationship could assist the City in securing contracts with Chinese companies and in appealing to Chinese tourists."

Public Forum

As a first step in the consultation process, a public forum was held on March 31, 2010. This forum was designed to share the results of the City staff research and to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions. It was also designed to share the Council motion of March 22, 2010 and to provide an opportunity for participants to provide input into possible steps and actions in support of reconciliation.

The forum was very well attended, with over 80 people counted and 58 people providing contact information as part of a sign-in sheet. Additionally, five media outlets were in attendance, as well as several freelance writers and a documentary film crew.

Based on the meeting, there appeared to be general support for the research which was undertaken and the consultation process which was outlined. Regarding the former, some participants cited that the research should have been broadened to include the Chinese media, including the Chinese Times. Regarding the latter, some participants emphasized the need to ensure that the process is inclusive of all interested parties and that the feedback form and other correspondence be translated into Chinese.

Feedback Form

To solicit input, both at the public forum and afterwards, a feedback form was developed (see appendix #1). This form asked respondents to describe what reconciliation looked like to them and to identify possible steps and actions in support of reconciliation. The form was subsequently translated into Chinese (see appendix #2) and related ads were placed in the Ming Pao Newspaper on May 26 and 28, 2010. The form was also available on the City's website and numerous ads were placed in the Royal City Record. In total, 46 people completed and returned the feedback form.

Based on the feedback form results (see appendix #3), the most often cited responses were as follows. Please note that the bracketed number after a response indicates the number of respondents with a like or similar response.

- Consider a more appropriate use for the former Chinese Benevolent Association site on Agnes Street. Its use as a dog park is not a respectful use of the site. (10)
- Consider making an official, open or public apology for past injustices to the Chinese community. This apology should be in both English and Chinese. (10)
- Consider developing school curriculum content on the contributions of the Chinese community to the City and on the Chinese Reconciliation Process. (9)
- Consider erecting interpretative signage and plaques at the former Chinese cemetery site and at the sites of the former Chinatowns in the City. (9)

- Consider acknowledging, in the form of a Council proclamation or resolution, past injustices involving the Chinese community in New Westminster. (8)
- Consider building a memorial park on the former Chinese cemetery site. This park should commemorate the contributions of Chinese Canadians. (8)
- Consider establishing a bi-lingual (English and Chinese) website to document the reconciliation process, including all research findings and reports. Additionally, consider inviting input from different sources such as descendents of Chinese pioneers. This website would serve as educational resource and reference for other jurisdictions. (7)

There were 48 suggested reconciliation steps and actions cited, over half of which were cited by only one respondent.

Multiculturalism Advisory Committee

On May 27, 2010, the City's Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC) reviewed the feedback form results. Based on the discussion, it was emphasized that reconciliation is a process and that its primary objective is the restoration and strengthening of a relationship. It was also emphasized that the City has taken significant steps towards building cultural awareness, tolerance and understanding, including establishing the MAC, funding a Multicultural Festival and revising the City's Multicultural Policy.

The MAC made the following suggestions for Council's consideration:

- Consider acknowledging that City actions contributed to past injustices involving the Chinese community and consider issuing an official apology to the Chinese community for these injustices.
- Consider erecting a physical reminder regarding the contributions of the Chinese community to the development, growth and prosperity of New Westminster. This reminder could take the form of a memorial, monument, plaque and/or statue.
- Consider working with the Province and School District to develop a memorial at the former Chinese cemetery site and consider erecting interpretative signage and plaques at the sites of the former Chinatowns in New Westminster.
- Consider offering a permanent exhibit regarding the reconciliation process and the results of the research and documentation at the Museum and Archives.
- Consider exploring ways to further augment the research that has been completed to date, including incorporating a Chinese perspective. These ways could include accessing grant moneys and working with academic institutions and cultural organizations.
- Consider reviewing the current use of the former Chinese Benevolent Association site on Agnes Street. This review could consider if this is the most appropriate and respectful use for this site.

- Consider working with the School District to ensure that the school curriculum references the contributions of the Chinese community in New Westminster and that it specifically cites the reconciliation process and any redemptive actions taken.

Meetings with Cultural Groups and Organizations

As part of the feedback form, it asked respondents to identify potential contacts within the Chinese community which could inform the reconciliation process. Based on the feedback received, meeting requests were made to five groups and organizations that represent larger constituencies. Of these requests, three meetings were held. One group or organization who declined to participate stated that the process was potentially divisive within the Chinese and larger community. Meeting participants were informed that all information reported back would be non-identifiable.

Meeting #1

- Recognize that reconciliation is a process and that it is not achieved through the issuing of a public apology.
- Consider holding a public meeting prior to bringing a Report with a recommendation to Council. In this way, the Chinese community has an opportunity to discuss the consultation findings and have informed input into possible steps and actions in support of reconciliation.
- Consider an acknowledgement as a first step in the reconciliation process. This could be accomplished through a Council proclamation or resolution.
- Consider renaming the process as "truth and reconciliation." Regarding the former, there is a need to complete the research, including incorporating a Chinese perspective, prior to considering a public apology. Regarding the research, consider accessing grant dollars through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and working with academic institutions such as SFU and UBC. As for the latter, Professor Harvey Yu and the Instruct students are well equipped to assist.
- Consider actions that address past injustices but are also progressive. For example, ensuring that civic hiring practices and grant processes are fair and inclusive and making an application for membership to the Coalition of Canadian Municipalities Against Racism.

Meeting #2

- Recognize that reconciliation in an interactive process and that it is being viewed favourably by the Chinese community. As such, it should lead to enhanced relations and stronger ties in the future. This could assist the City in securing contracts with Chinese companies and in appealing to Chinese tourists.

- Recognize that the final decision as to appropriate steps and actions in support of reconciliation is that of Council. It initiated the process in good faith and it has instituted a process to respectfully involve the Chinese community.
- Recognize the importance of the Chinese cemetery on the NW Secondary School site and the Agnes Street site which was gifted to the City by the Chinese Benevolent Association. With regard to both sites, consider appropriate and respectful uses and consider incorporating interpretative signage.
- Recognize the importance of completing the research and incorporating a Chinese perspective, as well as using this research to inform curriculum development. As such, consider working closely with academic institutions such as SFU.
- Recognize the importance of preserving the history of early Chinese settlement in New Westminster. As such, consider using the recently located land use maps which clearly demarcate the boundaries of the former Chinatowns and consider creating a predictive model resulting in archaeological supervision for future ground altering excavations within these boundaries.
- Recognize the importance of informing the larger community about the contributions made by the Chinese community to the development, growth and prosperity of New Westminster. As such, consider erecting interpretative signage, memorials, public art and statues to commemorate key buildings and historical events.
- Recognize the importance of being a role model for other jurisdictions. As such, consider drafting a resolution for support by other municipalities at the annual UBCM convention.

Meeting #3

- Consider providing time for associations to consult with their member organizations regarding possible steps and actions in support of reconciliation. While Council will make the final decision, such consultations could inform that decision.
- Consider publicly acknowledging past injustices committed by the City against its Chinese community. This does not necessarily entail a public apology.
- Consider erecting signage and plaques at the former Chinese cemetery site and at the sites of three former Chinatowns in New Westminster.
- Consider a memorial or museum on the site gifted to the City by the Chinese Benevolent Association. Its current use as a dog park is not a respectful use of the site.
- If Council decides to move forward on reconciliation in June 2010, which would leave inadequate time for associations to consult with their member organizations, then it should build in a role for consultation around the implementation of specific steps and actions in support of reconciliation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are many potential social and economic benefits to the City resulting from the Chinese Reconciliation Process. These benefits include enhanced relations with the Chinese community, both within and outside New Westminster, and stronger economic ties, which could assist the City in securing contracts with Chinese companies and in appealing to Chinese tourists.

As for costs, many of the recommended steps and actions in support of reconciliation have no or little cost associated with them, fall under the jurisdiction of another body, or are reliant on the receipt of grant moneys or support from academic institutions and cultural communities.

OPTIONS

The two options for Council's consideration are:

Option #1

THAT *Council endorse the package of steps and actions in support of reconciliation with the Chinese community:*

- *Make a public acknowledgement that City actions contributed to past injustices involving the Chinese community in New Westminster.*
- *Make a public apology, in both English and Chinese, to the Chinese community for these injustices.*
- *Review the current use of the Chinese Benevolent Association site on Agnes Street and explore more appropriate and respectful uses for this site.*
- *Use the recently located land use maps which demarcate the boundaries of the former Chinatowns in Downtown New Westminster to inform ground altering excavations within these boundaries, with the purpose of unearthing and protecting historical artefacts related to Chinese settlement.*
- *Work with the Province and the School District to explore opportunities for a memorial at the former Chinese cemetery site and explore ways to erect plaques or signage at the sites of the former Chinatowns in Downtown New Westminster.*

- *Explore ways to further augment the research that has been completed to date, including incorporating a Chinese perspective. These ways could include accessing grant moneys and working with academic institutions and cultural organizations.*

- *Explore ways of developing a museum exhibit showcasing the Chinese Reconciliation Process and the results of the research and consultation.*

- *Store the information related to the Chinese Reconciliation Process on the City's official website, possibly under Social Planning, and explore ways of translating this information into Chinese. This information would include the research and consultation findings and would serve as an education resource and reference for other jurisdictions.*

- *Work with the School District to explore opportunities for school curriculum development related to the contributions of the Chinese community in New Westminster and the Chinese Reconciliation Process.*

- *Continue to consult with the Chinese community around the implementation of the reconciliation steps and actions and to explore opportunities to work together on their implementation.*

Option #2

***That** Council provide staff with other direction.*

Staff recommend Option #1.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Throughout the Chinese Reconciliation Process, the Development Services Department has worked closely with the New Westminster Museum and Archives and the New Westminster Public Library, as well as other City Departments, as necessary.

CONCLUSION

The Chinese Reconciliation Process has been well received by the Chinese community. The recommended steps and actions in support of reconciliation are based on the research findings and are consistent with the consultation results. Their implementation should lead to enhanced relations and stronger economic ties with the Chinese community. As stated in the original Council motion of July 13, 2009: "the Chinese community is an important part of the multicultural fabric of the City of New Westminster."

John Stark,
Senior Social Planner

Approved for Presentation to Council

Lisa Spitale,
Director of Development Services

Paul Daminato,
City Administrator

Appendix #1: Feedback Form (English Version)

Appendix #2: Feedback Form (Chinese Version)

Appendix #3: Feedback Form Results

Introduction

The below summary is based on the receipt of 46 completed feedback forms. Please note that the feedback form was also translated into Chinese and ads were placed in the Ming Pao Daily on May 26 and 28, 2010.

Summary

Please note that the bracketed number after a response indicates the number of respondents with a like or similar response.

1. What does reconciliation look like for you?

- Reconciliation includes confession and repentance for discrimination and past injustice. Its goal is to bring Canada into a 'Country of One Nation' for all people and to prevent repetition of similar wrong doings in the future.
- Reconciliation is a process in which to resolve any root causes of conflict between communities and cultures.
- Reconciliation is a responsibility to the residents of the City to avoid similar mistakes from ever happening again.
- Reconciliation is a restoration of a relationship and includes a deep apology for past injustice; willingness to honour truth now; and a resolve to embrace each other in the future.
- Reconciliation is a restorative gift from above so that we may be our brother's keeper again.
- Reconciliation is an understanding and acknowledgement of what has gone before. An attempt to make amends for any problems caused and an attempt to locate and commemorate the graves and cemetery and construct a proper monument to those who lie buried there.
- Reconciliation means admittance of the party who did wrong and forgiveness from the other party. True reconciliation leads people to respect each other. The City should take positive action on reconciliation and make a public announcement and commitment. People should not mix up this reconciliation with general multiculturalism.
- Reconciliation means redeveloping a meaningful relationship between two parties. It is the sincere acknowledgement of one's discriminatory attitude and actions towards the victim. It is the start of the journey to become true co-partners in the building of a city or community with respect to honour.
- Reconciliation should address the subtleness of neglect and the insensitivity of the past in order to build fundamental trust.
- Reconciliation should promote peace and ensure that today's Chinese community has the right perspective as to its status in Canadian society.

2. What do you think are appropriate steps and actions for the City to take in support of reconciliation with its Chinese community?

- Identify appropriate and respectful uses for the former Chinese Benevolent Association site on Agnes Street. Its use as a dog park is not a respectful use of the site. (10)
- Make an official, open or public apology for past injustices to the Chinese community. This apology should be in both English and Chinese. (10)
- Develop school curriculum content on the contributions of the Chinese community to the City and on the Chinese Reconciliation Process. (9)
- Erect interpretative signage and plaques at the former Chinese cemetery and at the sites of the former Chinatowns in the City. (9)
- Acknowledge past injustices involving the Chinese community in New Westminster in the form of a Council proclamation or resolution. (8)
- Build a memorial park on the former Chinese cemetery site. This park should commemorate the contributions of Chinese Canadians. (8)
- Establish a bi-lingual (English and Chinese) website to document the reconciliation process, including all research findings and reports. Additionally, consider inviting input from different sources such as descendents of Chinese pioneers. This website would serve as educational resource and reference for other jurisdictions. (7)
- Add a clause to the Building Bylaw to protect subsoil artefacts in the area of the former Chinatowns. More specifically, appoint an archaeologist to conduct a systematic study comparing the current status of the former Chinatowns with archival records. The goal is to create a predictive model resulting in archaeological supervision for future ground altering excavation. (5)
- Commemorate the contributions of the Chinese through an annual 'Chinese Pioneers Day.' This day would help to educate the next generation. (5)
- Undertake a more balanced history of Chinese immigration to and settlement in New Westminster and of the racism and discrimination perpetuated against this community. As such, conduct research from a Chinese perspective by consulting Chinese publications and the descendents of Chinese immigrants to New Westminster. Much of the current history has been recorded from the perspective of Caucasians and those in power. (4)
- Create a permanent exhibition on the Chinese community and its contributions to New Westminster at the Museum and Archives. This exhibit should also reference the reconciliation process, as it is the first undertaken by a municipality in Canada. (3)
- Expand the historical research to include the period from 1858 to 1958. (3)
- Launch a public awareness campaign to inform the larger community about the 'racism' perpetuated against the Chinese community by the City; the reconciliation process; and the history and contributions of the Chinese community. (3)
- Make an application to the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism.[1] (3)

[1] "This coalition has a municipal charter which outlines the actions required to eliminate racism. This charter against racism is forward-looking in nature and introduces an approach that is inclusive of other marginalized groups and commits civic institutions to review their policies and practices in the present and into the future."

- Conduct research into other jurisdictions which have initiated reconciliation processes with discriminated communities or groups. This research should document the types of actions taken and compile information as to benefits and implications. (2)
- Continue the research to cover those years currently not documented (i.e., after 1926) and consult the ethnic media to create a more balanced perspective. (2)
- Ensure an inclusive and respectful consultation and reconciliation process. (2)
- Name the streets in the former Chinatowns after prominent Chinese pioneers. This would commemorate their contributions and raise public awareness. (2)
- Produce a documentary movie on the Chinese Reconciliation Process and the contributions of the Chinese community to New Westminster, including the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. (2)
- Translate the research findings into Chinese. They are of interest to many people who are not proficient in English. (2)
- Acknowledge the City's 'racist' past by way of a Council resolution. This resolution would also state that other marginalized groups were also mistreated and that this is the first phase of an inclusive process to recognize past wrongs. The Council resolution would be published in the local newspapers and in the Council's regular newsletter to residents and circulated as a memo to all City staff.
- Advocate for recognition and full protection of the Chinese cemetery.
- Appoint an appropriate archaeologist and historian(s) of Chinese ethnicity fluent in spoken (dialect) and written Chinese to complete the required research.
- Compile the research findings and follow-up report into a book in recognition of the significant contributions of the Chinese community. Copies of this book could be distributed to the City's Public Library and each and every one of the school libraries in New Westminster.
- Commence a community roundtable to gather input and to include 'truth' in this reconciliation process. Invite all interested parties and encourage participation by Council and Chinese families and organizations. To be respectful, there should not be a time limit to this process.
- Create a commemorative site in the gardens at City Hall. This site would contain a plaque with the names of Chinese pioneers and a place to sit and reflect.
- Designate a team of City staff to work with the Chinese community to research the contributions made by the community. The City should make this research available to the public.
- Create a museum dedicated to the Chinese community and its history and contributions. This museum would be a reminder to citizens and students and act as a tourist destination.
- Encourage and facilitate the involvement of the Chinese community in community events. For example, address issues related to cultural and linguistic differences.
- Establish a community advisory committee to work with the City to implement the community-based recommendations related to reconciliation. These recommendations, when implemented, would make the acknowledgement meaningful and could include: naming parks, schools and streets after prominent Chinese pioneers; establishing a Chinese Canadian Heritage Week; preserving green space in the areas of the three traditional China-

towns and placing markers at these sites; and conducting a more thorough research of past treatment of the Chinese.

- Establish a fund to assist scholars and students to uncover and document the history of the Chinese in New Westminster.
- Establish a fund to promote the spirit of multiculturalism in New Westminster. This fund could be established by realizing the endowment value of the properties bequeathed to the City by the Chinese community.
- Establish an annual Chinese Heritage/Pioneers Week with a ceremony and community events.
- Establish an ongoing study group on the subject.
- Extend the time for feedback to equal the time that the City took to do the research. As such, provide an equal eight months to consult with the descendants of Chinese pioneers and to conduct research into Chinese publications and records. Additionally, collect data through birth and death certificates, ship logs and business licenses.
- Hang Chinese banners to demarcate the boundaries of the former Chinatowns in Downtown New Westminster. Additionally, include Chinese translation of street names within these boundaries.
- Hold a parade with fire crackers, drummers, dragons and lion dancers in honour of the Chinese pioneers and the reconciliation process.
- Hold training sessions, as part of professional development days, with teachers at the School District. These sessions would discuss the contributions of the Chinese community to the City and the importance of the Chinese Reconciliation Process.
- Include people of Chinese ancestry and/or people who know the Chinese language as part of the City staff research team.
- Incorporate lesson plans in the school curriculum to: (1) recognize the contributions of Chinese pioneers in building Canada and New Westminster; (2) recognize past injustices advocated for and practiced by the City against its Chinese community; and (3) recognize the value of diversity to the social fabric of Canada.
- Monitor and document commentaries and news coverage related to reconciliation. This record should be available to all Canadians.
- Organize and sponsor an essay competition on the contributions of the Chinese community to the development of New Westminster.
- Preserve the building on 828 Royal Avenue which served as a bunk house for Chinese pioneers as late as the 1970s and 1980s. This building is an important part of the history of New Westminster.
- Provide a fuller picture (truth) by enabling others in the community to contribute. Include an oral history and Chinese language materials as part of the next stages in restoring the truth.
- Provide funding to the library to prepare learning modules for children. These modules would document the history and the contributions of both the Chinese and First Nations communities to New Westminster.
- Recognize that the issue of the new secondary school and other future development on the cemetery site should involve other stakeholders and be delinked from this process.
- Review community grant processes and hiring practices to ensure that they are inclusive of minority communities within New Westminster.

- Scan all historical records written in Chinese housed within the City's Museum and Archives and post them on the City's official website.
- Take a strong leadership position in assisting the School District to seek an alternative site for the new secondary school; in acknowledging the Chinese cemetery; and ensuring that this cemetery is not built upon.
- Teach students as to how to greet people in Chinese. Later, this could be expanded to other languages. This would be a first step towards harmony and peace.

3. Other comments, feedback and/or suggestions related to the reconciliation process, the results of the research and documentation and the Report to Council of March 22, 2010.

- Beware of other organizations that parachute into the process that may change the direction and potentially add to the cost.
- Council's decision to address past injustices against its Chinese community is most commendable. This is an honourable step taken by the City to reconcile with its own history.
- Genuine appreciation and congratulations for opening this significant, indicative, and, at times, contentious issue that must be politically challenging. Your willingness to address these issues should be recognized, and New Westminster, can, and should, be the model towards which other municipalities look when seeking their own reconciliation models.
- Great work! Mayor Wright and his Council are to be commended for their righteous motion to recognize past injustices and take redress actions. As Canadians, we must move forward to build a harmonious, inclusive and tolerant community. This is our Canadian fabric.
- I am very concerned with the suggestion that the City's earlier policies and regulations regarding land and buildings were not discriminatory because "many other citizens were also affected and caught up in the application of the City bylaws." Under Canadian law, for decades now, it has been sufficient to prove that a measure disproportionately affects a given group of people to show that the law is not neutral in its application, although it may be facially neutral." Perhaps most concerning is the possibility that City researchers are discrediting well grounded and well founded claims of racism and discrimination in the administration of City regulations, and land and building policies, through this document and the research document. The "insufficient evidence" found of racism in City policies relating to regulations, land and building policies, came not from historic accounts of the actual implementation of policies but rather from the racist documentation of the history of New Westminster in official minutes, bylaws and newspaper articles. For what can be described as generations now, historians have acknowledged that in order to establish some element of accuracy in historic reconstruction, oral histories and personal accounts must be taken into consideration, in addition to written historic records that are often controlled by those engaging in the oppression itself.
- Impressive work done by the City staff research team, given time, staffing and budget constraints.

- In my opinion, this reconciliation process is a brave move and good gesture made by the City to reveal the truth in the past as to how Canadian Chinese suffered. The City should encourage other cities in North America to do the same thing and face their history bravely.
- It is proposed that the main outcome of this process be a forward looking undertaking by New Westminster City to address any and all issues of institutional racism.
- Our organization is not seeking monetary compensation.
- Our organization recognizes the traditional lands of the Qayqayt First Nation and the Coast Salish Peoples. It also acknowledges that this proposal is submitted in the spirit of genuine reconciliation and does not prohibit individuals, groups and corporations from seeking legal remedies. Our organization is involved in this process because it believes that this local history of racism spawned later provincial and then federal efforts to exclude the Chinese. In 1923, New Westminster MP William G. McQuarrie moved the Chinese Exclusion Act in Parliament. This 'racist' legislation affected Chinese families in New Westminster and across Canada. The head tax families were directly impacted and are still living with the legacy of this legislated racism. The City is incorporated – a living entity before the law – and while the new Council did not pass the 'racist' bylaws, the City does have some moral responsibility to allow the truth to be told. Our organization takes the position that an official apology from the City must be initiated and led by and delivered directly to the affected families and groups, specifically: Chinese families in New Westminster, their descendents, and Chinese associations and their successor groups and organizations.
- Present a number of reconciliation options (that have been prepared by the City of New Westminster) to member associations and solicit feedback from these associations.
- So far, I feel that the City is direct and open in this matter. Finding out the whole truth – essential facts, will be important. Contacting all affected parties are both important for finding and engaging in the process of healing.
- The City should stay away from monetary compensation to individuals who might be descendants of the victims of past discrimination. Not only is this financially not feasible but the process is complex and does not necessarily contribute to grassroots reconciliation.
- The City should take the leadership as a municipal government to acknowledge the history of discrimination against the Chinese in its past policy, actions or lack of actions to deal with injustices towards the Chinese.
- The City's move towards reconciliation is in the right direction because it is a justified process to correct past wrongs.
- The present process, including the research and follow-up report, is a gesture of reconciliation.
- The reconciliation process is much welcome. It a major gesture to the Chinese community and an invitation to work together to create a better New Westminster.
- The reconciliation effort transcends the City of New Westminster and the Chinese community, but encompasses all British Columbians in an attempt to reconcile with our own Canadian history.
- This is a good step to improving the harmony of different ethnic groups.

- This is an important first step, however, it seems that the funding is inadequate from the victim's perspective, i.e., there needs to be reference to the Chinese media.
- This process is an opportunity for both parties to mend old wounds and to develop a strong relationship built on respect and trust. The City has made the first step. Now, we in the Chinese community need to rally behind the City and demonstrate our gratitude. We need to support the implementation of reconciliation actions and inform our contacts in China about New Westminster and its ongoing efforts to build a strong relationship with the Chinese community.