

Ottawa

Room 930, Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel/Tél: 613-992-6030
Fax/Télec: 613-995-7412



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Jenny Kwan

Member of Parliament for Vancouver East
Députée de Vancouver-Est

Constituency

2572 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V5K 1Z3
Tel/Tél: 604-775-5800
Fax/Télec: 604-775-5811

Mr. [REDACTED]
Canadian Security Intelligence Service

Dear [REDACTED]

Hope you are well. I would like to bring to your attention a news story on the Ming Pao Daily, reporting on the community celebration of Lunar New Year in Vancouver Chinatown on January 30, 2022. http://www.mingpaocanada.com/van/htm/News/20220131/vas1h_r.htm?fbclid=IwAR0tk2lxkeBMfzvC8wJorSaOFvKgXv-HjPxrUreDW6M02ZxdWb9V08Qs83Y

The story said, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver (CBA) and Canada Guangdong Community Federation have jointly organized the “Dragon and Lions Celebrating Year of the Tiger, Celebrating New Spring to Revitalize Chinatown”, the event was held at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Plaza at the Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC), with dignitaries of 3 levels of government in attendance. Chinese Consul General Tong Xiaoling was the official that dotted the eyes of the dragon.

According to the news story, the VIP attended were: Chinese Consul General Tong Xiaoling, HKSAR Western Canada principal consultant Catherine Yuen, Richmond Centre MP Wilson Miao, Vancouver Granville MP Taleeb Noormohamed, Steveston-Richmond East MP Parm Bains, BC Minister of State George Chow, Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Richmond Centre MLA Teresa Wat, Vancouver-Langara MLA Michael Lee, Vancouver City Councillor Pete Fry, Burnaby Councilor James Wang, as representatives of the 3 levels of government, plus many representatives from the community clan associations.

The Chinatown Lunar New Year celebration is a major event not only in the Chinese community but also in our multi-cultural society.

As reported on the news, the Mayor of Vancouver, as well as myself, the sitting MP representing Chinatown did not receive an invitation for this Lunar New Year celebration. As an elected official since 1993, this is the first time that I was not invited to the annual Chinatown celebration with the exception of last year as the Chinatown celebration was not held due to the pandemic.

Of note is the fact that Mayor Stewart and myself have spoken on China's human rights issues and I voted in favour of the House's Uyghur genocide motion. The Liberal MPs that attended the event are all new members, as such, they did not vote on the Uyghur genocide motion. According to the Chinese-Canadian Concern Group on the Chinese Communist Party's Human Rights Violation (Concern Group)'s statement, agents of CCP could have "hijacked" community organizations and to use community events in aid of CCP propaganda, selectively rewarding and targeting democratically elected public figures.

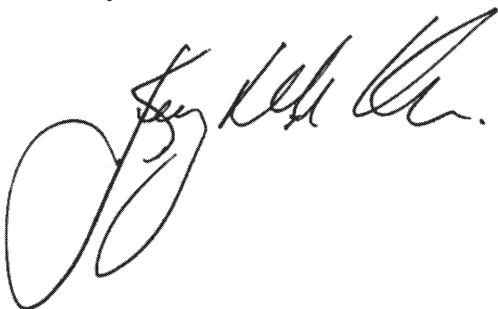
In the Concern Group's media statement, it also stated that former MLA and Deputy House Speaker Richard Lee was being targeted by the Chinese consulate.

As you may aware, the president of CBA and CCC is Fred Kwok, who invited members of the Chinese community to a free lunch in Chinatown to meet the Vancouver East Liberal candidate in the recent federal election.

According to the news story of Epoch Times on February 25, when asked about why the Mayor Mayor and the MP representing Chinatown were not invited, the vice president of CBA said he does not know and he even denied the event was organized by his association.

I hope CSIS could look into this to determine whether or not, or to what extent, foreign influence or agent/s of a foreign government is/are affecting how community events are organized and reports its findings to various authorities including the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Kwan', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Kwan, MP

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<https://www.epochtimes.com/b5/22/2/25/n13604728.htm/amp>

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<https://biv.com/article/2021/04/chinese-consulate-lashes-back-vancouver-mayor>

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<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/vancouver-mayor-suspends-meetings-with-chinese-government-officials-3614998>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2022

CCP suspected of manipulating the political ecology of Chinese Canadians through Lunar New Year celebration events

During the Lunar New Year festivities that took place in Vancouver’s Chinatown earlier, the organizers had invited the Chinese Consul-General as the keynote guest, while singling out and omitted to invite Member of Parliament Jenny Kwan and Vancouver mayor Kennedy Stewart.

The Concerned Group (Chinese-Canadian Concerned Group on the Chinese Communist Party’s Human Rights Violation) considers it highly inappropriate for those groups to invite and feature a foreign state’s official representative - giving her a prominent role to dot the dragon’s eyes and giving a speech sending out Beijing’s message - in a Canadian community event whereas giving cold shoulders to elected representatives of our own who had expressed criticisms toward the Chinese government.

According to media reports, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver and the Canadian Association of Guangdong Community Associations-jointly organized “Dragon and Lion Wishing a Propitious New Year and Welcoming the Golden Tiger, Strengthening Chinatown and Celebrating the New Spring Festival” activities that took place outside Vancouver’s Chinese Cultural Centre, in the Dr. Sun Yat-Sun Square. Members from three levels of government were invited as guests to the traditional dragon and lion dances, with the Chinese Consul General Tong Xiaoling dotting the eyes of the dragon – a solemn ceremony signifying the giving of life to the dragon.

Guests of the festivities included: Vancouver Chinese Consul General Tong Xiaoling, Principal Consultant (Western Canada) for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Catherine Yuen, Richmond-Central MP Wilson Miao, Vancouver-Granville MP Taleeb Noormohamed, Stevenston Richmond East MP Parm Bains,

BC Minister of State for Trade George Chow, Mayor of Richmond Malcolm Brodie, Richmond North Centre MLA Teresa Wat, Vancouver-Langara MLA Michael Lee, Vancouver City Counsellor Pete Fry and Burnaby City Counsellor James Wong.

The Concerned Group has learned that Vancouver East MP Jenny Kwan and the Mayor of Vancouver Kennedy Stewart were not invited to the January 30 community celebration event.

As Chinatown falls under the electoral district of Jenny Kwan and she is the longest serving Chinese-Canadian politician, a celebration of Lunar New Year in Vancouver's Chinatown excluding Jenny Kwan and Vancouver's current mayor Kennedy Stewart makes no sense. The Concerned Group feels that the only plausible reason is that Jenny Kwan had, in Parliament, brought up the Hong Kong situation as well as voting in support of the motion naming China's Uyghur persecution as genocide, and Kennedy Stewart had, because of the incarceration of the "two Michaels", refused to meet with officials from the People's Republic of China and had earlier indicated the wish to establish friendship city status with Kaohsiung (Taiwan), which was met with criticism from the Vancouver Chinese Consul General Tong Xiaoling.

The exclusion of these two elected representatives from a major festivity of Vancouver's Chinese community is something the Concerned Group considers highly irregular. It might involve collusion between Chinese community leaders and forces outside Canada, making use of inviting elected representatives to community events to imply their acceptance by the vast Chinese community, thus in aiding China's efforts to project its influence on Canada's democratically elected political leaders. If this turns out to be true, this would be a case of foreign intervention in Canadian politics and warrants thorough investigation by Canadian Security Intelligence Service. If there were really diplomatic staffs involved in working with community leaders to target political figures in an attempt to influence Canadian politics, such staffs should be expelled from Canada.

There has been previous incident of democratically elected political figure being targeted because of their concerns over China's human rights abuses. Former MLA Richard Lee had been boycotted by Vancouver's Chinese consulate –some community associations were told if there was any community event involving Richard Lee, the Chinese Consulate would decline to send any representative to attend. At the time, Richard Lee was the Deputy Speaker of the provincial legislature. He lost the re-election in the 2017 provincial election after this boycott.

Just as there is a need for lobbyist to register, the Concerned Group feels that the aforementioned incident underscores the importance of Canada to set up a register for individuals representing foreign governments. That will allow politicians, the public and the media know who, within our own communities, are representing the interest of foreign governments. Such would alert our community and media groups, so that our community organizations would not be easily "hijacked" by such individuals representing foreign governments to aid Chinese Communist propaganda, and invitations to our community events will not be exploited to selectively reward or punish our democratically elected representatives whom the Chinese Consulate likes or dislikes.

Contact for Concerned Group spokespersons:

Victor Ho [REDACTED]
Mabel Li [REDACTED]