

# News Briefs on Multiculturalism

## UBC CHRP project team initiative on the web “Chinese Canadian Stories: Uncommon Stories from a Common Past”

The Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) Project team at the University of British Columbia held a conference on August 9, 2010 at UBC Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and announced that they are starting a project titled “Chinese Canadian Stories: Uncommon Stories from a Common Past”

It is web based and a collaborative, multi-disciplinary project funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada’s Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), part of the Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch.

According to the CHRP Project team for more than 200 years, migrants of Chinese heritage have traveled to Canada to live, to work, and to raise their families. They have come at different times and from different places in China and throughout the world. Many have called a variety of places home before coming to Canada, but once here, they formed vibrant communities that have significantly shaped Canadian society.

Until now, there has never been a one-stop web portal dedicated to collecting, digital archiving, accessing and distributing information about Chinese Canadian history.

A portal website by the UBC CHRP project team will be multilingual with English and Chinese resources. A digital archive deposits and preserves digital material created from partner organizations funded by the CHRP and saves it



**PHOTO ABOVE** Iowna Freemasons, Chinese hospital clinic. ©University of British Columbia Library, Rare Books and Special Collections

in a searchable database. In addition, Grade 5-12 classrooms will use both the portal website and the digital materials through the creation of learning resources and teaching materials that will use CHRP created materials, embed-

ding the material within a rethinking of the role of Chinese and First Nations peoples in the building of the CPR and in building Canada.

The project aims to print 500 copies of teaching guides and downloadable web resources

that can be accessed for free at the UBC website. The team anticipate early 2012 the project will be completed.

## Government of Canada supports workplace diversity project

The Government of Canada will provide more than \$757,000 over two years to the Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre for a program that addresses the challenges and opportunities of a diverse workplace.

On September 30, 2010 behalf of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Pierre Poilievre, Member of Parliament for Nepean-Carleton said “Employers and new Canadians in Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver will benefit greatly from the Multiculturalism Achievement Program for Learning Employers. And by supporting initiatives such as this, the Government of Canada is investing in the future—a future that depends on all of us growing together through our shared values, history and institutions.”

The Multiculturalism Achievement Program for Learning Employers (MAPLE) will consist of three activities, including:

- Workshops for employers on improving cross-cultural communication in the workplace.
- Unpaid internships for new Canadians with participating employers.
- ‘Mentor-to-Mentor’ exchanges, with representatives of participating employers and new Canadians mentoring each other on issues of intercultural understanding.

“MAPLE is about opportunity – the opportunity for employers to learn how to create conditions to make a diverse workplace thrive, as well as the opportunity for newcomers to develop networks of contacts and colleagues and establish themselves in their chosen fields in Canada,” said Sharon Kan, Executive Director of the OCCSC. Other partners in the project include Immigrant Services Calgary and the Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia.