



May 29, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We would like to bring to your attention the increasingly serious issue of anti-Asian racism across Canada during the Covid-19 pandemic.

CPAC, formerly Chinese Professionals Association of Canada, has over 30,000 members, mostly in Ontario. Over the past few months, we have seen more and more reports about racist behaviours against Chinese Canadians and those who look like Chinese, including East Asians, Southeast Asians, and indigenous people of Canada. We have seen a dramatic increase of verbal and physical attacks, microaggressions and online hate, xenophobia and scapegoating directed at Chinese and Asian Canadians. The number and the degree of viciousness of this recent strain of racism are both disturbing. For instance,

- In Montreal, a gentleman of Korean descent was stabbed in the neck.
- In Toronto, a young Chinese couple, male and female, were assaulted and the male sustained a broken arm.
- In Saskatoon, a 15-year old Chinese boy was subjected to racial slurs and attacked while riding a bike.
- In Vancouver, a 92-year old Chinese man was pushed out of a convenience store and onto the ground, sustaining injury.
- Also in Vancouver, an indigenous woman, mistaken as Chinese, was punched in the face and told to “go back to China.”

Across Canada, many of our community members, especially children and seniors, have been traumatized. Some of our children are afraid to go outdoors, many seniors are afraid of going out for groceries, people living in downtown centres choose to travel to the suburbs to shop in areas with a higher Asian density to feel safer, and even frontline healthcare workers have to defend themselves from attacks on their way to performing their duties and saving lives.

This is unacceptable. This echoes attitudes that gave rise to Canada’s *Chinese Exclusion Act* and the internment of Japanese Canadians. This does not reflect a Canada that we can be proud of today.

Our fear is that with pandemic restrictions from activities being gradually lifted, attacks will become more brazen and dangerous, and that a return to school will see an outbreak in bullying towards children of Asian descent.

Therefore, we are keenly interested in knowing if the Government has any plan to combat Covid-19 related racism.





We call upon you and the Federal Government to pay close attention to this issue and to do everything possible to stop the spread of the virus of anti-Asian racism.

As a community, Chinese Canadians have made outstanding contributions to Canada's fight against Covid-19. From raising money and donating PPE to donating meals and mobilizing thousands of volunteers to support self-quarantine, the Chinese community has been truly exemplary. Our community deserves recognition, not attack.

We want to thank you for publicly denouncing Covid-19 related racism. However, to stop the spread of hate and racist assaults, more must be done by leaders and governments.

We look forward to working with you and the Federal Government in overcoming both the coronavirus and the racism virus.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Xiao'.

Eric Xiao  
President, CPAC

Cc: Hon. Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth  
Hon. Andrew Sheer, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada  
Mr. Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
Mr. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party  
Ms Jo-Ann Roberts, Interim Leader of the Green Party of Canada

