



Head Tax Families Society of Canada  
加拿大人頭稅家屬會

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August 24, 2007

Honourable Jason Kenney  
Secretary of State,  
Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Kenney,

**RE: HEAD TAX REDRESS FOR FAMILIES**

Thank you for allowing me the brief opportunity to speak with you concerning Head Tax Redress for families at the screening of Wesley Lowe's documentary, I am the Canadian Delegate on Friday, Aug. 10 at SUCCESS.

It was unfortunate that our society, *The Head Tax Families Society of Canada* was not invited to this event, but many of our members who are Head Tax payers and spouses, extended their invitation to include Sid Tan and I as their guests. We are the Society's co-chairpersons.

In our brief conversation, I would like to extend an invitation to meet with you and our society to discuss redress for the many elderly sons and daughters of Head Tax payers who were also the victims of the Head Tax and Exclusion Act. They would like to receive a just and fair redress based on our Society's manifesto, "One Certificate, One Claim". Even though the exclusion laws have been repealed since 1947, the consequences of these laws continue to discriminate.

During our conversation, I mentioned that I am a great granddaughter and granddaughter of Head Tax payers but because of the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act, I am an immigrant, even though our family has had over 100 years of history in Canada. Whereas in my husband's family, his Dutch grandfather immigrated to Canada after WWI, and his family are Canadian born.

In your reply, you mentioned applying for the community fund. But unfortunately, we were not able to continue with our conversation in which "As an ordinary Canadian, how does the community fund recognize me? Or my 75-year-old father?". T

The elderly sons and daughters of Head Tax payers feel the Canadian government's apology and community fund initiatives, does not recognize their sufferings. They too were direct victims of the legislated racism enacted through the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act, which separated and barred unification of families for decades, some never to re-unite.

Minister Kenney, I hope you are developing an understanding to why redress is incomplete when less than 400 people and less than 0.05% of affected Head Tax payers are recognized.

Our organization looks forward to meeting and discussing redress with you, so a complete redress for all Head Tax Families is achieved before the next election.

My email address is                      and can be reached at                      .

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Grace Schenkeveld  
Vice President and Co-chair  
Head Tax Families Society of Canada

Cc: Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada  
Honourable Josee Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women,  
Honourable Stephane Dion, Leader of the Opposition,  
Honourable Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada  
Mr. Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Quebecois,  
Mr. Peter Julian, Member of Parliament (Burnaby-New Westminster)  
Ms. Libby Davies, Member of Parliament (Vancouver East)  
Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh, Member of Parliament (Vancouver South)