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Asian Heritage Month 2024

May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada. This month offers us all an opportunity to reflect on, and learn more about, the many achievements and contributions that Canadians of Asian heritage have made and continue to make across the country.

Although it has been celebrated since the 1990s, the Government of Canada officially signed the declaration announcing May as Asian Heritage Month in 2002. May was also declared South Asian Heritage Month in Ontario in 2001.

According to the 2021 Census, a total of 7,013,835 people in Canada reported having Asian origins, representing 19.3% of the population, and the most recent projections indicate that these populations will continue to increase.

In 1788, the initial Chinese settlers in Canada were 50 artisans who along with Captain John Meare constructed a trading post and promoted trade in sea otter pelts between Guangzhou, China, and Nootka Sound, British Columbia.

Since then, immigrants have journeyed to Canada from East Asia, Southern Asia, Western, Central and Southeast Asia, bringing a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities, and religious traditions.

From the rituals of a Hindu wedding in India, the harmonious tea ceremonies in Japan, or the vibrant Lunar New Year celebrations in China, these traditions have been passed down through generations, to those who now live in Canada. They have become a part of the fabric of this country, have enriched our communities, and fostered a sense of belonging and identity for Canadians of Asian heritage.



We encourage all members to reach out to their Sisters, Brothers, and friends of Asian and South Asian heritage to learn more about their stories. **Let us come together to celebrate Asian Heritage Month in all our communities!**

In Solidarity,

Jan Simpson
National President

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