



Canada-China Friendship Society® La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

Canada-China Friendship Society (CCFS) Annual General Meeting January 15, 2019

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

by Amelia Choi

The fiscal year 2017-2018 has been a very challenging yet highly successful year for the Canada-China Friendship Society with our notable transition to a new executive team. Such success is attributed to strong passion, unwavering dedication, rich diversity, exceptional talent, and fresh energy from this new executive team and volunteers, along with generous contribution of time, expertise, and wisdom from former CCFS executives, Lorraine Farkas and Lolan Merklinger, in providing guidance and in rolling up their sleeves whenever a need arises. Our sincere thanks to all our CCFS members, partners, and sponsors for your active participation in and generous support to all CCFS events. We would also like to acknowledge the full support of various officials of our Canadian federal and municipal government, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Canada (HKTDC). To all of you, our utmost appreciation!

This year marked record-breaking attendance for our Speakers Program, significant developments and partnerships were forged from the various new Building Bridges initiatives which include two delegations to China, a profitable Film Festival, and a thriving ChinaReads program. Details of the Society's accomplishments this year are detailed in each section below.

As our Society celebrates all our successes together, we also mourned together for the loss of our beloved former co-president, Gary Levy, in early 2018. CCFS won't be where we are today without the foundation that Gary had laid for us. We owe him our deepest gratitude.

A. Speakers Program

As the flagship program of CCFS, the Speakers Program soared to new heights this year. With the goal of offering our members and the general public the most relevant and fresh insights about China,



(Director General of North Asia and Oceania at Global Affairs Canada), and Professor Jeremy Paltiel of Carleton University. This event was held in April, 2018, attracted around 200 attendees, and was featured in both English and Chinese newspapers. Members from both the Senate and

including its culture, economics and trade, and politics, we embarked on the *first ever* Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) panel discussion that was ever held in Canada, involving both the Chinese Ambassador and a senior official from the Canadian Government. Our distinguished panel is comprised of His Excellency Chinese Ambassador Lu Shaye, Dr. Sarah Taylor



the House of Commons sent their endorsements for this event and welcome messages to all attendees. Mr. Andrew Yui (Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Canada) made a special trip from Toronto to join us and extended CCFS free registration to the Belt and Road Summit which was later held and participated by our members in Hong Kong in June, 2018. Heightened engagement and interest among our members and the Canadian

public based on our BRI event continued to effect increased participation in other BRI events, such as the BRI Conference that was organized in December, 2018 by the Chinese Embassy in cooperation with the Carleton University.

Throughout the year, the Speakers Program continues to be very successful with great speakers and good turnouts, and is our key program for attracting new members. Average attendance per event is over 60 to 80 with some events drawing up to almost 200. The quality of our program speaks for itself as we witness consistent increase in attendees from Global Affairs Canada, Export Development Canada, and various federal government agencies.



Sourcing of our distinguished speakers and attendees is not limited to our local Ottawa area only, but extends to other cities, provinces, and beyond; such as Mr. Jeff Nankivell (Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macau) from Hong Kong, Dr. Wenran Jiang (President of the Canada-China Energy and

Environment Forum and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Asian Research at the UBC) from Alberta, and Mr. Andrew Yui (Director of HKTDC Canada) and Ms. Carmen Lei (President of the Macau-Canada Economic and Trade Association), both of whom are from Toronto. A list of our Speakers Program events can be found in [Annex 1](#) of this report.



B. The 2018 Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival (November 14, 21, 28 and December 5, 2018)

Building upon lessons learned from the first Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival in 2017, the second annual Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival was successfully launched in 2018 at the ByTowne Cinema. Four films were shown on four consecutive Wednesday evenings in November and December, 2018. These include three dramatic films - *Love Education*, *I Am Not Madame Bovary*,

and *Mad World*; and one documentary film - *Tricks on the Dead*. Each of these films has garnered international awards and reveals a unique aspect of China.

渥太华加拿大中国电影



OTTAWA CANADA-CHINA FILM FESTIVAL

Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa is proud to launch the 2nd Annual Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival.

Featuring the "best of" international or Chinese films. Each film is well made, received international awards, and reveals an aspect of China to help Canadians discover more about China, one film at a time.

 Wed. Nov. 14 6:45 PM Love Education <small>Ottawa Premiere</small>	 Wed. Nov. 21 6:40 PM I am Not Madame Bovary <small>Ottawa Premiere</small>	 Wed. Nov. 28 7:00 PM Tricks of the Dead <small>Ontario Premiere</small>	 Wed. Dec. 5 7:00 PM Mad World <small>Official Submission for Best Foreign Language Film, Oscar</small>
<p>Love Education</p> <p>What is love? A young woman explores the complicated and interconnected lives of three generations of women who discover that nothing and everything has changed.</p> <p>120 min. China 2017. Mandarin with English subtitles.</p>	<p>I am Not Madame Bovary</p> <p>A young Chinese woman battles the system in this eye-opening political comedy-drama.</p> <p>128 min. China 2016. Mandarin with English subtitles.</p>	<p>Tricks of the Dead</p> <p>An award winning film documenting the forgotten story of a group of Chinese peasants who were sent to WWII. A war they didn't understand.</p> <p>100 min. Canada 2014. Chinese and English with English subtitles.</p>	<p>Mad World</p> <p>A former financial analyst who is struggling with bipolar disorder, is placed in the custody of his truck-driver father after being dismissed from a mental health institution.</p> <p>101 min. Hong Kong 2017. Cantonese with English subtitles.</p>

Come celebrate the lead up to the 50th anniversary of Canada-China Diplomatic Relations in 2020.

Each Film \$12 (\$8 CCFSO members)
Festival Pass \$26 (ByTowne and CCFSO Members only)

Tickets available at the box office or in advance at www.eventbrite.com or www.ccfso.org

BYTOWNE

325 Rideau St. www.bytowne.ca

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The objective of the Film Festival is to enable Canadians discover China through films, and more specifically, through the lens of ordinary Chinese people as they strive for a better future in today's vibrant Chinese society. In the 2018 CCFS Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival, we are excited to see that up to 70% of the attendees are non-CCFS members, while average attendance was up 30% from the previous year, with an average of 102 attendees per film. Notably, the 2018 Film Festival was profitable and reversed the loss from previous year. We thank our sponsors for their support. We also thank representatives from the Senate, House of Commons, the Council of the City of Ottawa, and the Chinese Embassy for their endorsements and support. Special thanks to Roy Atkinson, Chair of the Film Festival Committee, all the committee members, and volunteers for their tireless efforts behind the scene.

C. Building Bridges Initiatives:

A set of new initiatives on Building Bridges was launched in 2018 to further our Society's objectives through extending our reach by establishing partnerships beyond geographical boundaries, as detailed below.

1. Visits to China

In addition to learning about China through the various CCFS programs and events held in Ottawa, CCFS strongly encourages our members to learn and experience China first-hand through visiting to develop mutual understanding, to build friendship, and to deepen people-to-people ties.

- a. In late October, 2018, upon the invitation of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Amelia Choi (CCFS Co-President) led a CCFS delegation of medical professionals to Beijing and Shijiazhuang. This trip is very successful and lays a solid foundation for future cultural exchanges between CCFS and a few associations in China, as well as for a



number of potential projects that have been identified for medical professional exchanges and collaboration between medical institutions in Canada and China; all of which will be pursued in the coming months and years.

During this trip, the delegation also attended a seminar commemorating the 80th anniversary of Dr. Norman Bethune's arrival in China, wherein Amelia delivered a presentation in both English and Chinese that highlights the significance of 2018 as the designated Canada-China Tourism and Cultural Exchange Year and the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Dr. Norman Bethune in China during the Second World War. She reiterated the importance of learning from Dr. Bethune's selfless spirit, and of dedicating our professional skills and expertise to the service of others, in order to build a better world together and to continue to develop better and deeper understanding, as well as lasting friendship between the Canadian and the Chinese people. Amelia also took the opportunity to promote CCFS and its primary objectives, and to provide an update on the Society's key initiatives. Her speech was interspersed with presentations by delegate members on greeting letters from various Canadian government and municipal officials.



Below are links to articles written about some of the events that were participated by the CCFS delegation during this trip:

- <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/gTAbnc3vvL965-rD8B3JrQ>
- <http://city.cri.cn/20181031/ad9bec3d-f9c2-b09e-e19e-7ee763e23c4a.html?from=timeline&isappinstalled=0>

- In November, 2018, Amelia Choi (from Ottawa) and Michael Copeland (from Toronto) also led a delegation of Canadian representatives from the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA), of which CCFS is one of the 6 member chapters, to Hainan to participate in the 2018 Friendship Forum where Amelia hosted a panel discussion on “Enhancing Youth Exchanges to Lay a Solid Foundation for Friendship”. The Friendship Forum was a great success with over a hundred representatives from various friendship associations of other countries and regions in attendance.



- c. In December, 2018, in an effort to raise awareness of our Society, CCFS participated in the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Smart Biz Expo in Hong Kong, that was jointly organized by the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Special Administration Region (HKSAR) Government. Amelia Choi obtained a complimentary banner and booth at the Canadian Pavilion, and complimentary advertisement in the Expo publication for the Society. She also represented CCFS and attended to our CCFS booth in the Expo. ***HKTDC is, hence, a new partner of CCFS.***



2. Upon the invitation of the Federation of Ottawa Chinese-Canadian Community Organizations (FOCCO), Amelia Choi presented “Innovation and IP” as a distinguished speaker at the Canada-China Trade Forum and attended, on behalf of CCFS, their Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration on September 23, 2018. *FOCCO is, hence, a new partner of CCFS.*



3. Upon the request and invitation of the Macao and Canada Economic and Trade Association (MCETA) President, Ms. Carmen Lei, Amelia Choi wrote an endorsement and congratulatory message on behalf of CCFS to MCETA. The message was published in their annual publication which was distributed at the MCETA’s anniversary dinner and the 23rd annual Macao International Investment and Trade Fair 2018 on Oct 18-20, 2018. The Canadian Consul General of Hong Kong and Macao was amongst the distinguished speakers and guests at the event. *MCETA is, hence, a new partner of CCFS.*

4. Upon the request and invitation of the management of Bai Yin Tuo Historical Site in Shunping, Hebei, Amelia Choi wrote them a congratulatory message on behalf of CCFS, for the China-Canada Friendship Maple Leaf Festival and Joint Field Medical Clinic for Local Villagers to



October, 2018

Bai Yin Tuo Historical Site
Shengnan Zhen, Yongxing Village
Shunping County, Hebei Province 072255
People's Republic of China

Dear Ms. Liu Fenzhi,

On behalf of the Canada-China Friendship Society (CCFS), it is my greatest pleasure and honor to extend our warmest greetings to everyone attending the China-Canada Friendship Maple Leaf Festival, and to commend you and your team for organizing this Festival and the joint field medical clinic for local villagers.

2018 is a very special and important year for both Canada and China and for all of us because it has been designated as the Canada-China Tourism and Cultural Exchange Year. 2018 is also the 80th anniversary of the arrival of Dr. Norman Bethune and the joint Canada-US medical team in China during WWII.

What a special and meaningful way to celebrate this very special year and to commemorate these significant milestones through this joint field medical clinic by both Canadian and Chinese doctors in a village where Dr. Bethune had once stayed and worked during his medical inspections in that area!

This Festival and the joint field medical clinic for local villagers reflect the vibrant ties between people of both countries at all levels, especially through cultural and professional exchanges and collaboration. Moreover, just as Dr. Norman Bethune's brought modern medicine to Chinese villages, treated and ministered to both villagers and soldiers in China, I commend all of you for continuing his legacy of selfless commitment and dedicated services.

Congratulations and best wishes for a great celebration and tremendous success for both the festival and the joint field medical clinic. A special thank you to all the organizers and warmest greetings to all participants.

Yours sincerely,



Amelia Choi
Co-President, Canada-China Friendship Society, Ottawa



再忆白求恩，枫叶正当红——写在“首届中加旅游年中加友谊枫叶节揭幕”之际

白医大北京校友会 2018-10-19



2018年10月16日，“首届中加旅游年中加友谊枫叶节”在保定市顺平县白银坨景区隆重举行揭幕仪式。白求恩精神研究会、中国人民对外友好协会、八路军研究会、河北省白求恩精神研究会、白求恩医科大学北京校友会、白求恩医务士官学校、白求恩公益基

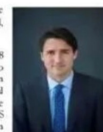


PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Statement from the Prime Minister of Canada

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the China-Canada Friendship Maple Leaf Festival, hosted by the Bai Yin Tuo Historical Site.

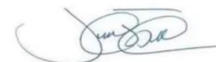
We gather today, in celebration of the 2018 Canada-China Year of Tourism, which aims to increase the people-to-people ties between our nations and enhance our cross-cultural understanding. It is also a time to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Canada-US medical team in China, headed by Dr. Norman Bethune.



Dr. Bethune played a significant role in both Canada and China. He gave his life to those seeking medical treatment – no matter race, income, or circumstance – and he did so with a strong spirit of internationalism.

I would like to thank the organizers for making this festival possible, and all those who came out to celebrate.

Please accept my warmest welcome and best wishes for a memorable night!



Ottawa
2018

commemorate the 80th anniversary of Dr. Bethune's arrival in China. Stephen Chappell and Amelia Choi also assisted the organizers in obtaining an endorsement letter from our Canadian Prime Minister which was recited at their opening ceremony. CCFS was informed by the organizers that the Festival was a great success and that the full support from both CCFS and the Canadian Prime Minister are greatly appreciated. ***Bethune Spirit Research Association is, hence, a new partner of CCFS.***

5. Upon invitation of the Chinese Embassy, several CCFS executives and members attended various events and receptions throughout 2018:

- a. China Day Reception to celebrate Canada-China Year of Tourism and Canadian Tulip Festival 2018 on May 13, 2018

中加旅游年及郁金香节庆典

May 13, 2018



- b. Celebration of the 91st Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on August 1, 2018



- c. Celebration of the 69th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China on September 25, 2018



- d. Belt & Road Initiative Conference, in partnership with Carleton University on December 14, 2018



D. ChinaReads

Our China Book Club, called “ChinaReads”, was founded by Marilyn Collette in April, 2013. The objective is to increase members’ understanding of China’s political, social, economic and cultural history and state of the art. It is akin to a China study group, with members presenting, on each occasion, a couple of books and articles that are written by



Chinese or international authors on a broad range of subjects; and discussing current events and issues that affect China. ChinaReads are held at members’ homes on a voluntary rotational basis. Access to this group is limited to CCFS members and is by invitation only. The group also gathered for an enjoyable pre-Christmas banquet.

After serving as the Coordinator for 5 years, Marilyn Collette passed the baton to David Burke in early 2018.

A list of books and articles reviewed in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 can be found in [Annex 2](#) of this report.

E. Membership and Finance:

Although membership is at an all-time high of 297 with over half of them in active status, the rest expired in the fall of 2018. The total number of active members as of November, 2018 is 202. The team will continue to work on membership renewals and recruitment.

The Society made a profit in the fiscal year 2017-2018 and is financially sound.

F. Marketing and Publicity

1. Robert Decher, our VP Marketing, re-designed our CCFS' website. Please check out the new sleek design at www.ccfso.org. Thanks Robert for a job very well done!
2. CCFS continues to actively use various social media platforms to promote our events.



G. Concluding Words

As global instability intensifies, especially with tension between Canada and China over the arrests of individuals from both sides, perceived hostility and retaliation, unstable and unclear US foreign and trade policies, and impact of such uncertainty and diplomatic feuds on existing tariff battles, 2019 is anticipated to be another year for CCFS to contribute to promoting understanding and peace.

I started and would also like to close this report with my profound gratitude to all of you. Your unwavering dedication, passion, and support to CCFS gave us all the content on this report. I can't be more humbled by and privileged to serve CCFS with all of you. Thank you very much! I look forward to another successful and impactful 2019 with all of you!

Annex 1: CCFS Speakers Program Events during Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Date	Speakers Program Event
October 25, 2017	Senator Yuen Pau Woo on <i>Beijing's Relations with Other Asian Countries</i>
November 21, 2017	Former Ambassador of Canada in PRC, Mr. Guy St. Jacques, on <i>China after the 19th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party</i>
January 23, 2018	Sr. Policy Director at the Bank of Canada, Mr. Mark Kruger, on <i>The Chinese Economy Enters a New Era: What Does It Mean for Canada?</i>
February 20, 2018	Associate Professor at Central China Normal University and Visiting Scholar at Carleton University, Dr. Liyong Dai on <i>The Religious Landscape in China</i>
March 12, 2018	President of Canada-China Energy and Environment Forum, Senior Fellow at the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia, and Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta, Dr. Wenran Jiang on <i>Western (Mis)Perceptions of China & Policy Implications</i>
April 17, 2018	Ambassador of PRC in Canada, Mr. Lu Shaye; Director General of North Asia and Oceania at Global Affairs Canada, Dr. Sarah Taylor; and Professor of Political Science at Carleton University, Dr. Jeremy Paltiel on <i>The Belt and Road Initiative Panel Discussion</i> , moderated by CCFS Former President Roy Atkinson
May 29, 2018	Consul General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao, Mr. Jeff Nankivell, on <i>What Hong Kong Means to Canada in China and Asia</i>
September 19, 2018	Former Canadian Diplomat in Asia, Mr. James Trottier, on <i>China and North Korea: A Complex and Deep-rooted Relationship</i>
October 17, 2018	Senator Yuen Pau Woo on <i>New Challenges in the Canada-China Relationship</i>

Annex 2: List of Books Reviewed and Discussed by ChinaReads during Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Author	Book
Xue Yiwei	Dr. Bethune's Children
Ian Johnson	The Souls of China: The Return of Religion After Mao
Ruth Hayhoe	Contemporary Chinese Education
Howard W. French	Everything Under the Heavens: How the Past Shapes China's Push for Global Power
Charles Taylor	China Hands: The Globe and Mail Correspondents in Beijing
Wei Jingsheng	The Courage to Stand Alone: Letters from Prison and Other Writings
Graham Allison	Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydide's Trap?
Michael Pillsbury	The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower
Clive Hamilton	Silent Invasion: China's Influence in Australia