



# 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 30, 2020*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2019**

*by Amelia Choi*

2019 was a challenging yet fruitful year for CCFS. External challenges primarily stemmed from geo-political unrest and indirectly impacted our CCFS membership and general public attendance at some of our programs. Nevertheless, with the strong conviction and passion, unwavering dedication, rich diversity, versatile talent, and exceptional energy of our CCFS Executive Team and volunteers, we managed to continue to be unflappable while steadily advancing the mandates of CCFS, *i.e.*, to promote understanding, exchanges, and friendship between the people of Canada and China. We believe that relationships can flourish at all levels and friendship between these two great nations can be further strengthened, during both good and bad times, through embracing diversity, respecting each other's differences, learning to truly listen and to sincerely seek to understand, as well as adopting a principled win-win approach in collaborative resolution of all issues.

Our special thanks to our CCFS advisors—Lorraine Farkas and Lolan Merklinger, and our CCFS Executive Team and volunteers for your generous support throughout the entire year. Our sincere thanks to all our faithful CCFS members, partners, and sponsors for your support and active participation in all our CCFS events. We would also like to acknowledge the full support of officials from our Canadian federal and municipal governments, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada, the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office (Toronto), and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Canada). Our utmost appreciation to all of you for making possible all the accomplishments that are to be detailed in this report.

## A. 2019 Chinese New Year Banquet

CCFS organized a very successful Chinese New Year Banquet at Shanghai One on February 16, 2019. Amongst our special guests at the banquet were the Director General of North Asia and Oceania at Global Affairs Canada, and diplomats from the Chinese Embassy in Canada. It was a sold-out event with speeches delivered by both the Government of Canada and the Chinese Embassy in Canada. There were cultural performances, a silent auction, lucky draws, music, and great food! Throughout the evening, slideshows were played that highlighted the 2018 CCFS medical delegation's visit to Beijing and the 2018 Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA) trip to the Friendship Forum in Hainan. The former trip was made upon the invitation of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. Norman Bethune's arrival in China, while the latter trip was made upon the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. We are very pleased by the attendance of so many veterans and long-time CCFS members in that celebration!



Kudos to our CCFS Chinese New Year Banquet Committee, led by Emma Huang and Hippolyte Mugisha, for a very successful event! Special thanks to all our sponsors for the door prizes and donations for the silent auction. The 2019 Chinese New Year Banquet generated a net surplus of \$1,561 from ticket sales and silent auction.

## B. Speaker Program

We have continued to deliver an excellent Speaker Program that covers a wide range of interesting topics about China, including its culture, economics and trade, technology, and politics, offering our members and the general public some most relevant and fresh insights about China. This program continues to be our flagship program for attracting new members and for helping Canadians learn more about China.



Special thanks to our Speaker Program Coordinator, Lorraine Farkas, for our very close collaboration in planning and recruiting great speakers. We have an average attendance of approximately 40 to 70 per speaker event. Our distinguished expert speakers are sourced not only from the Ottawa area, but also from Toronto and China. We're very honored and appreciative of all of them.



Ms. Emily Mo, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office (Toronto) and Mr. Andrew Yui, Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Canada) — both flew in from Toronto to speak to us about Hong Kong and

opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. Mr. Mark Kruger, former Senior Director in the International Economic Analysis Department of the Bank of Canada, flew in from China to be amongst our distinguished speakers to share with us his insights on the trade war and China's medium-term prospects. Dr. Peter Chen, former Counselor at the Canadian Embassy in China and recent retiree, came to share with us about the evolution of Canada-China Agricultural Cooperation. Mr. Stephen Chappell and Dr. Yumin Ye, both our very own CCFS members, gave very interesting presentations on Norman Bethune Trail and the ancient Tao,







respectively. Mr. Riven Zhang, CEO of Motion Pay Technology, gave an insightful presentation on China's mobile social revolution and its potential for Canadian businesses. A list of our Speaker Program events can be found in [Annex 1](#) of this report.

Our Speaker Program continues to attract attendees from all walks of life, including students, current and former public servants, and individuals from the private sector.

### C. 2019 Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival (October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019)

The objective of the CCFS Film Festival is to enable Canadians to be better informed about life in China and better appreciate the experience of people with Chinese heritage living here in Canada, through the enjoyment of the “best of” international or Chinese films—which provide unique perspectives into the lives, challenges, and creativity of the Chinese people and their families.

Building upon lessons learned from the last two Ottawa Canada-China Film Festivals, the Third Annual Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival was successfully launched in 2019 at the Studio Meridian Theatre at CentrepoinTE. Four films were featured on three consecutive Wednesday evenings in October, 2019. These include two Ottawa Premiere and award winning documentary films, namely, *Our Time Machine* and *Still Tomorrow*; a short animated film called *Bao* which is directed by a Canadian Chinese who won the 2018 Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film; and the first international Uyghur film from Xinjiang, also an Ottawa Premiere, called *A First Farewell*.



A very special evening wrap-up is notable at the end of each film screening during this Film Festival.

- On the premier night, Mr. S. Leo Chiang, Director of *Our Time Machine*, joined us via Skype for a very interesting Q&A session.
- On the second evening, Filmmaker Sun Zhao Min flew in from China to hold a Q&A session with us in person after the screening of *A First Farewell*. Ms. Wang Lina, the director of this film, is his student. Both of them worked closely together on this Uyghur film.
- On the third night, after the screening of the documentary film entitled *Still Tomorrow*, Professor Lili Zhang of Chinese Literature, a visiting professor at the Carleton University, gave an insightful presentation about Yu Xiuhua—the person who is featured in the film.



All the Q&A sessions and presentations after each film screening provided great value to the audience and were very well-received. A big kudos and thanks to our CCFS Film Festival Committee—led by Roy Atkinson (Chair of the Film Festival) and Erqin Zheng (Film Selection Committee Coordinator), all our sponsors, and our CCFS volunteers for generously contributing in various capacities to the success of our Film Festival. Special thanks to Luc Lalande for arranging an interview with Rogers Ottawa TV as part of our marketing effort for this Festival.

Attendance for the 2019 CCFS Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival averages 70 per film and 210 for the entire Festival. The Festival generated a net surplus of \$1,043 despite a 30% drop in average attendance from previous year.

## D. Building Bridges and Friendship Efforts

In 2019, CCFS continued to build on our 2018 accomplishments in further strengthening our partnerships with various organizations, as detailed below:

### 1. Participation in Belt & Road-related Events, Expos, and Visits to China and Hong Kong

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. At the invitation of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Canada), five CCFS members signed up for the Canadian Mission to Hong Kong and received complimentary registrations to the 4<sup>th</sup> Belt and Road Summit that was held on September 10-13, 2019. Optional side trips were also arranged to visit Mainland China. 5,000 delegates from 60 countries and regions participated in the Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong, 50 of whom were from Canada.



- b. Also at the invitation of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Canada), seven CCFS members attended the Belt & Road Seminar that was held in Ottawa.
- c. In an effort to raise awareness of our Society, CCFS participated once again at the Canadian Pavilion of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Smart Biz Expo in Hong Kong, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center on December 4-6, 2019. Although we were not able to attend the Expo in person this time, the HKTDC provided us a complimentary banner and booth at the Canadian Pavilion and showcased us as one of several non-profit Canadian multipliers.





## 2. Furthering Friendship and Exchanges

We've continued to further our relationship with the friendship associations in different countries, and Bethune-related organizations (including the Bethune Spirit Research Association) through maintaining regular communication and sharing learnings such as our experience and lessons gained from our Ottawa Canada-China Film Festival and interactions with the Pacific China Friendship Association.



In March, 2019, we organized a farewell dinner for Culture Minister Counsellor Zhao Haisheng and Madam Lu —both of whom have been great supporters of CCFS throughout the years.



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### 加中友好协会信

保定顺平白求恩历史遗址管理处  
尊敬的对芬女士：

在 2019 年度《加中友谊枫叶节》开幕之际，我谨代表加中友好协会向你们及所有与会者表示热烈祝贺！

2019 年是白求恩大夫逝世 80 周年暨毛主席发表《纪念白求恩》80 周年。众所周知，白求恩大夫是一名外科医师、医学发明家和人道主义者。他来到中国救治伤员和村民，为当地带来先进的医疗技术。他还帮助培训当地的医生和护理人员。在第二次世界大战的抗日战争中，白求恩大夫作为共产党领导的八路军的前线军医和医学顾问不知疲倦的工作、救治伤员，直至 1939 年 11 月 12 日他逝世为止。他无私奉献和对工作极端负责的精神深深感动了中国人民，特别是毛主席。白求恩大夫是加中两国人民共同的英雄。他一直激励着两国人民努力工作、无私奉献。今天我们在枫叶节这一特别的日子里纪念白求恩大夫，因为他为加中两国人民搭建起了一座友谊之桥。

尽管现在世界地缘政治风起云涌，但是由于白求恩大夫所深深植根于加中两国人民之间的真挚友谊是不会被遗忘的。本人高度评价你们为继续弘扬白求恩大夫无私奉献和热情服务精神所做的一切工作，这将会进一步加强加中两国人民之间的了解和友谊。我坚信加中两国之间的友谊会经得起时间的考验而牢不可破！

再次送上我们衷心的祝福，祝枫叶节圆满成功！

*Chen Qiyang*

加拿大中国友好协会主席  
蔡燕玲敬贺  
2019 年 10 月 16 日



Upon the request and invitation of the management of Bai Yin Tuo Historical Site in Shunping, Hebei, I wrote them a congratulatory letter, on behalf of CCFS, for the China-Canada Friendship Maple Leaf Festival to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. Norman Bethune's Death and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Publication of Chairman Mao's Eulogy for Dr. Bethune. The letter was originally written in English and was translated by Professor Qi Ming who also recited it on my behalf at the Festival's opening ceremony. Below is a link to one of the articles written about the Festival:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/C5S7MfvcGFzIPehjluasMA>



3. Upon the invitation of the Chinese Embassy, some CCFS executives and CCFS members had the pleasure and privilege to attend a number of events and receptions that were organized and/or supported by the Embassy in 2019, as follows:

- a. Chinese New Year Reception on January 29<sup>th</sup>, which was well attended by representatives from various levels of the Canadian Government, diplomats, and community representatives

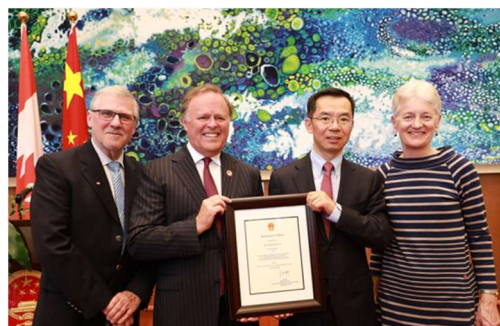


- b. Celebration of the International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, where participants had the opportunity to try Chinese painting and calligraphy after attending an interesting presentation given by a number of Chinese artists





- c. Ambassador's Award Ceremony on March 27<sup>th</sup>, where H.E. Ambassador Lu Shaye presented an award to Dr. LEE Edward Errett, Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto and President of the Bethune Medical Development Association of Canada

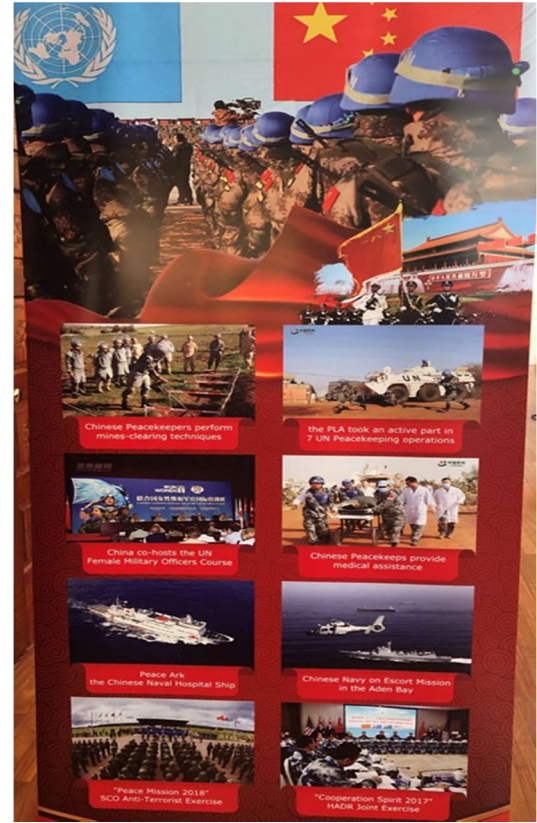


- d. 2019 Tulip Festival China Day Lawn Cocktail on May 18<sup>th</sup>—organized by the Chinese Embassy, the City of Ottawa, Canadian Tulip Festival, China National Tourist Office Toronto and Canada-China Culture and Art Association—to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Twinning of Beijing and Ottawa, and to celebrate the 2019 Canadian Tulip Festival
- e. Donation Ceremony on June 11<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Chinese Embassy where Professor Yves and Cynthia Bled, both our long-time CCFS members, donated artworks on “Understanding China Through Cartoons” and “Indian Artworks of the Northwest Coast of Canada” to the Chinese Embassy. Both donors were presented a plaque by H.E. Ambassador Lu Shaye. H.E. Ambassador Lu Shaye, Ms. Cynthia Bled, and I spoke at the event. Over twenty-five CCFS members attended the beautiful ceremony and reception.





- f. Celebration of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on July 30<sup>th</sup>



- g. Celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of People's Republic of China on September 25<sup>th</sup>, hosted by H.E. Ambassador Cong Peiwu





- h. Canadian and Chinese Joint Drama Dance Performance —*Seeking*— on October 28<sup>th</sup>, held at the Museum of History and organized by the Canada-China Culture and Art Association and Huaxing Arts Group Ottawa, to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of People's Republic of China and the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and China. This performance is a beautiful joint collaboration of renowned Canadian and Chinese artists.



- i. Tribute and Reception on October 28<sup>th</sup>, organized by the Chinese Embassy to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. Norman Bethune's Death. In attendance were scholars, medical





professionals, and representatives from various Bethune-related organizations from both China and across Canada; relatives of Dr. Norman Bethune; a Global Affairs Canada official; university students; and ten CCFS members.

## **E. ChinaReads**

Our China Book Club, called “ChinaReads”, was founded by Marilyn Collette in April, 2013, and has been led by David Burke since early 2018. In 2019, the ChinaReads group met five times to discuss books and once to enjoy a pre-Christmas banquet. On each occasion, members presented a couple of books or articles that are written by Chinese or international authors on a broad range of subjects; and exchanged views on 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.

A list of books and articles reviewed in Year 2019 can be found in [Annex 2](#) of this report.

## **F. Membership and Finance**

The total number of active members as of November 30, 2019 is 131—a 35% drop compared to the previous year. The CCFS Executive Team will continue to work on membership renewals and recruitment in 2020.

Through conscientious management, CCFS has continued to be financially sound and had a net surplus in the fiscal year ending 2019.

## **G. Concluding Words**

Our former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said it very well, “*There is no such thing as a model or ideal Canadian... A society which emphasizes uniformity is one which creates intolerance and hate... What the world should be seeking, and what in Canada we must continue to cherish, are not concepts of uniformity but human values: compassion, love, and understanding.*” Though geo-political unrests are anticipated to continue to intensify across the globe, including unresolved issues between

Canada and China, and unstable US foreign and trade policies, CCFS will remain steadfast in our mission of promoting understanding, exchanges, and friendship.

Despite various challenges in the last couple of years, I count it a privilege to serve alongside all of you, as the CCFS President and a member of the Board of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA) of which CCFS is a member chapter. Being recently elected to serve as the FCCFA President, I look forward to 2020 as a year wherein CCFS, together with all the FCCFA member chapters, will work closely with all our partners to press forward and advance our mission.

Lastly, my profound gratitude to all of you for your unwavering dedication, passion, and support, which made no obstacle insurmountable, but rather our 2019 accomplishments all the more invaluable. Thank you very much! In light of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and China in 2020, I look forward to yet another year for CCFS to stand tall as a beacon of friendship and peace!

### Annex 1: CCFS Speaker Program Events in 2019

Date	Speaker Program Event
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. Stephen Chappell on <i>The Norman Bethune Trail</i>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	CEO & Co-founder of Motion Pay Technology, Mr. Riven Zhang, on <i>China's Mobile Social Revolution and Its Potential for Canadian Businesses</i>
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Former Counselor at the Canadian Embassy in China, Dr. Peter Chen, on <i>The Evolution of Canada-China Agricultural Cooperation: the Past, Present and into the Future</i>
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Yu Ming Ye on <i>East Meets West: Ancient Tao and Modern Life</i>
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Former Sr. Director at the Bank of Canada, Mr. Mark Kruger on <i>The Trade War and China's Medium-Term Prospects</i>
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto), Ms. Emily Mo, on <i>Updates on Hong Kong – Challenges and Opportunities</i>



## **Annex 2: List of Books Reviewed and Discussed by ChinaReads in 2019**

Author	Book
Rob Schmitz	Street of Eternal Happiness
Sydney Rittenberg & Amanda Bennett	The Man who Stayed Behind
Weijian Shan	Out of the Gobi: My Story of China and America
Elizabeth Economy	The Third Revolution: Xi Jing Ping and the New Chinese State
Michael Pillsbury	The Hundred-Year Marathon
Margaret E. Roberts	Censored: Distraction and Diversion inside China's Great Firewall
William Overgard	Shanghai Tango
Paul M. Evans	John K. Fairbank: the American Understanding of Modern China
Michael Yahuda	Hong Kong: China's Challenge
Qui Xiaolong	Shanghai Redemption