



## 給加拿大社區的一封公開信

加拿大中國信徒佈道會（中信）對在新型冠狀病毒大流行造成前所未見的危機下，全國各地種族主義事件和仇恨罪行的異常增加非常關注。

在病毒的肆虐下，亞裔的加拿大人以及一些伊朗人在社會上受到侮辱：

- 一名聯邦國會議員公開質疑華裔首席公共衛生官，到底她是為中國還是為加拿大服務；
- 因病毒而實施社交封閉時，受華人和越南人歡迎的聚集地點和亞裔開設的商店遭到襲擊並破壞；
- 許多亞裔加拿大人或其他少數族群，包括一些每天冒著風險與病毒戰鬥的醫療和衛生專業人員，或基本服務工人，在街上受到的種族侮辱、騷擾、指為引入病毒來源的不公指控，又或因戴口罩引來不屑目光；
- 身體軟弱或位於弱勢處境人士因種族緣故遭到惡性暴力或毆打：
- 在滿地可一位韓國男士在兩週末前當街被刺傷；
- 在多倫多一名亞裔青年因保護女友而被三名襲擊者折斷臂膀；
- 一位有特殊需要孩子的母親在橫過行人道時，被一輛突然停下來的汽車女司機從車上跳出，撕掉她的口罩；
- 在溫哥華一位患有嚴重腦退化症 92 歲高齡長者，在便利店中被人趕出並襲擊受傷倒地；

凡此種種都是卑鄙、不道德、完全不能接受的行為。

新冠病毒疫情爆發及政治化，在全球、政府、社會及社交媒體各層面引致強烈的情緒焦慮和令人反感的敘述、傷害性的評論、論點、虛假新聞、種族偏見和攻擊性的行為，影響著世界各地的人，甚至影響著我們的社區。對那些屯積並以欺詐價格重售必需品，自我中心，不理會他人或自身安全，違反社會隔離令的，不住散播有關病毒的虛假消息，發表扭曲評論，誤導他人，利用病毒危機及其對健康、社會安全及經濟影響尋找代罪羊，指責對手，挑撥種族緊張情緒，以推行一己在國際上的議程，我們都應予以鄙視及禁制。

在危機時期我們一眾未能堅持克服種族主義的決心，嚴重破壞了長期以來加拿大多元文化的價值觀，尊重多樣性，維護社會寬容和種族和諧的文明。最近在溫哥華，卡加利，多倫多和滿地可發生，出於種族動機的事件，破壞並分裂了我們作為一個國家和社區的形象，令我們蒙羞。其實這正是我們應以同情，慷慨和自我犧牲，彼此協助、顧懷及支持，共渡危機和困難的時刻。



我們相信，聯邦，省和市政府將盡最大努力帶領我們渡過新冠病毒疫情的巨大挑戰和不明確性。然而，作為加拿大公民，我們在社會中也負有共同責任，在這艱難時期，彼此在個人層面上互相幫助。我們知道，在這疫情流行期間，人們都對自己的健康，安全，工作，財務，未來的生計及家人感到焦慮，壓力，沮喪和擔憂。但我們鼓勵那些較幸運並有能力去援助的，積極和建設性地為消極的能量重新定向，就像我們的一些同胞已經在社區中所做的那樣。在這危險時刻，我們可能並非同舟，但我們絕對處於同一風暴中。那些未被擊沉船隻上的人，仍然可以投擲救生圈或向被蹂躪的船隻伸出援手。

加拿大中信在全國各地的辦公室組織了志願者小組，致力於社區中與他人分享基督之愛。在全國啟動了新冠病毒疫症大流行情緒支持熱線服務，我們已經招募了數百名志願者，向各社區中孤立的長者運送食品。我們亦製作了 15,000 面罩，連同其他必需品，分發給社區中的弱勢群體，並與服務夥伴合作，幫助溫哥華市東區的無家可歸者。

我們此時呼籲加拿大社區保持團結，不是分裂；傳播愛，同情和關心；而非仇恨，沮喪或焦慮。避免對任何種族人口造成侮辱，人不是病毒。沒有比種族偏見和仇恨罪行更嚴重的社區爆發。它極具傳染性，可以像新冠病毒一樣，如野火般傳播，不加選擇地感染每個人。我們主張開展更多的社區對話，以增進相互了解，社會包容和接受。請我們的政治和社區領袖為解決這一問題樹立榜樣。

與新冠病毒疫症不同，加拿大人悠久的多元文化價值觀，並我們先輩移民到此後，學習到與不同民族生活的歷史，賦給了我們免疫性。中國移民祖先在他們最黑暗的時刻，為與種族主義鬥爭而流傳下來的解藥就是無保留的愛，對這個國家付出犧牲和對同胞的服務。在需要時請使用此疫苗。

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '譚卓全' (Tan Zhanquan).

加拿大中信 總幹事

譚卓全

二零二零年四月廿七日

加拿大中信是一非牟利基督教機構，宗旨為向世界傳播基督的愛，並通過教育，培訓，服務和倡導，鼓勵對社區的照顧和支持。四十年來，中信參與並獲得當地教會的支持，致力於照顧和服務弱勢群體；在加拿大發起城市及小城鎮事工，並參與海外宣教項目。它在大溫哥華，愛民頓，卡加利，大多倫多和滿地可均設有辦事處和服務中心。



## **An Open Letter to Canadian Communities**

The Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) of Canada is very concerned of the unusual rise of racist incidents and hate crimes in communities across our country under the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the severe storm of COVID-19, Canadians of Asian descent and some Iranians are being socially stigmatized. When a federal MP openly questioned the loyalty of Canada's Chief Public Health Officer who is Chinese whether she works for China or for Canada in Parliament something is not right in this speech. When popular Chinese and Vietnamese gathering places and Asian ethnic stores are targeted and vandalized during COVID-19 closure something is wrong in our community. When many Asian Canadians or other visible minority, including some medical and health professional or essential service workers who risk their safety daily to combat COVID-19 have to tolerate racial slurs in the street, harassment, unjustified accusations of importing the virus or disdainful look by others for wearing a face mask in daily encounters something is badly broken within our society. When certain ethnic persons who are physically weak or in vulnerable situation are met by viscous violence or assault because of their ethnicity - a Korean male stabbed on Décarie Boulevard, Montreal weekend before last, an Asian young man sustained a broken arm by three attackers in defense of his girl friend being physically abused in downtown Toronto, a mother with a special need child being abruptly stopped by a car at crosswalk by a female driver who jumped off to rip-off her face mask, and a senior 92 years old with dementia thrown out of a convenience store to the ground in Vancouver last week, this is utterly despicable, immoral and totally unacceptable.

The outbreak of the novel Coronavirus and the "politicalization" and stress of the COVID-19 impacts that follow at the global, international, government, society and social media levels has since unleashed an extraordinary spell of emotional anxiety, objectionable narratives, hurtful comments, arguments, fake news, racial prejudices and offensive behaviors influencing people worldwide and likewise in our communities. We abhor people, regardless of race and ethnicity, who are hoarding and reselling essential goods or price gouging; who are self-centered and not being considerate of other's and own personal safety and violating social distancing or self-isolation or quarantine order; who keep spreading untrue information about COVID-19, posting twisted commentaries and mislead other; who exploit the COVID-19 crisis and its health, social security and economic impacts to find scapegoats, finger-pointing opponents, incinerate racial tension and further one's political, racist or ulterior international agendas. They have to be stopped.

The collective failure to hold up our resolve to overcome racism in time of crisis has seriously damaged our long-standing Canadian values of multiculturalism, respecting diversity, preserving civility of social tolerance and racial harmony. The racially motivated incidents happened recently in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal disgrace all of us, destruct and divide us as a country and a community, especially at this time when we should be helping, caring and supporting each other with compassion, empathy, generosity and self-sacrifice to get through this common crisis and hardship together.

We believe the federal, provincial and municipal governments will be doing the best they can in taking us through the immense challenges and uncertainties of COVID-19. Nonetheless, as Canadian citizens, we also have a shared responsibility in a civil society to help each other out at the personal level during this difficult time. We understand that people are getting anxious, stressed, frustrated and worried about one's health, safety, job, finances and future livelihood and their family during this pandemic, but we encourage those who are more



blessed and have the capacity to help to try to redirect the negative energy to a positive and constructive way like some of our fellow citizens are already doing in the community. We may not all be surviving or sheltering in the same boat during this treacherous time but we are definitely in the same storm. Those whose ships are not wrecked can still navigate to help, throwing a life saver or extending a helping hand to those on a battered vessel.

At CCM Canada, we have organized teams of volunteers in our offices across the country dedicating their effort in sharing the Christian love to others in the community. We have launched a COVID-19 pandemic emotional support hotline service nation-wide. We have recruited hundreds of volunteers delivering groceries to isolated seniors, making and giving away 15,000 cloth face masks and other essential items to vulnerable or disadvantaged groups in our communities and working with service partners to help the homeless in Vancouver Downtown Eastside (DTES).

We appeal to the Canadian communities at this time to stay united, not divided; to spread love, empathy and care but not hate, frustration or anxiety. Refrain from stigmatization of any ethnic population in the country; people are not viruses. There is no worse community outbreak than the outbreak of racial prejudices and hate crimes. It is contagious and can spread like wildfire like COVID-19 and everybody can be infected by it indiscriminately in the end. We advocate for more community dialogue to enhance mutual understanding, social tolerance and acceptance. We ask our political and community leaders to set a good example in addressing the issue.

Unlike COVID-19, we Canadians have the basic immunity given by the long-established national value of multiculturalism and the history of our predecessors when they immigrated to this country and started to learn living with different peoples. One antidote passed down by our Chinese immigrant forefathers to fight racism in Canada in their darkest moment is the giving of unreserved love, self-sacrifice for this country and service to our fellow man. Take this vaccine at the time when we need it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Tam', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas Tam, Executive Director

Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) of Canada

Mobile: 604-808-6812

April 27, 2020

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The Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) Canada is a non-profit Christian organization whose purpose is to reach the world with Christian love and to encourage community care and support through education, training, services and advocacy. For forty years, CCM engages and draws on the support of local church communities, focuses on caring for and serving the vulnerable, initiates urban and rural small town ministries in Canada and participates in missionary projects overseas. It has offices and service centers in Metro Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Greater Toronto and Montreal.