



Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada 2004 NEWS LETTER

April 2004

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Foundation,

The past year has been a busy and productive one for the SCLCFC. To mention a few highlights: Last June, over 150 of our friends and supporters turned out for a very successful dinner gathering which raised more than \$16,000. All these funds will go directly either to augment the Paul and Eileen Lin Endowment Trust Fund (thereby increasing the number of scholarships we can provide to Chinese students) or to support our other projects to benefit children in China and Canada. It was gratifying for SCLCFC board members to be able to share with the attendees at this dinner our enthusiasm about the role and progress of the Endowment fund in providing educational scholarships to some of the most needy and deserving children in China.



In October, the SCLCFC sponsored the visit to Vancouver of a delegation of eight Chinese teachers and education administrators. The delegates participated in a Cross-Cultural Symposium on Early Childhood Education (organized by the SCLCFC), and shared with Canadian participants experiences in educating children during the so-important preschool years. Those who attended the symposium were tremendously impressed by the dedication and creativity of these Chinese teachers. This symposium continued an ongoing process supported and carried out by members of the SCLCFC (entirely on a volunteer basis) to share Canadian advanced experiences in early childhood education with those in China who are also in a position to spread this knowledge throughout their country.

Also in October, we were gratified to see Mr. Lu Ping,

Vice President of the Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Foundation and of the China Welfare Institute, travel from China to present our co-founder and current Director, Paul Lin, with the prestigious Soong Ching Ling Camphor Tree Honorary Award. This award recognizes Professor Lin's enduring contributions to the welfare of children and women in China. In January, at a dinner to celebrate the arrival of the Year of the Monkey, the directors presented this year's "For the Children Award" to former Director Hamish Cameron, recognizing his many contributions to the SCLCFC's efforts on behalf of children.

I want to thank my fellow board members and our many supporters for all you have done for the children. I know that with your continuing generosity and support, even more will be accomplished for the children in the future!

For the children

Nina Halpern, President

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JUNE 2003 FUNDRAISING DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

On June 26, 2003 SCLCFC hosted a fundraising dinner at Victoria Chinese Restaurant in Vancouver BC.

Over two hundred guests attended this event.



Professor and Mrs. Lin with guests.

A photo display chronicled the various projects the foundation completed over the last twenty years. On behalf of the foundation, Soong Ching Ling



Guest reviewing photo display

Children's Foundation of Canada President, Dr. Nina Halpern thanked all the guests for the support they lent us in raising funds for the Paul and Eileen Endowment Trust.

A slide show was presented to report on the progress of the Endowment Fund Scholarship

program in China. A copy of the slide show will soon be made available on www.sclchildren.ca. This even raised \$10,000 for the SCLCFC General Fund and a further \$10,000 for the Paul and Eileen Endowment Trust Fund. ❀

CROSS-CULTURAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

From Oct 20 to Oct 22, 2003 a cross-cultural Early Childhood Education Symposium was held in Richmond's Caring Centre.

This marks the third installment of a bi-annual effort between SCLCFC and Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Foundation. Every two years each foundation takes turns to host the symposium alternately in Vancouver and in Shanghai. The last symposium was held in Shanghai in the fall of 2001.

A delegation of eight educators, researchers and administrators from China participated in this year's symposium. They made excellent presentations for their Canadian peers on a wide range of topics including

- ECE Curricula Reform in the Context of Rapid Economic Development in China;
- Children's Rights and Their Implications in Curriculum Setting;
- Inspirations of the Emellio Reggio Early Childhood Teaching Practice;
- The Enjoyment of Creativity Education;
- The Teaching Philosophy in Children's Language Development;
- Effective Tactics in Observing Children's Activities.

ECC educators from Canada reciprocated with equally informative presentations on

- The Teaching Philosophy of Rudolf Steiner and the Waldorf school;
- Early Childhood Teachers' Training Program at Capilano College;
- Communicating with Families;
- The Rights of Children.

The delegates from China toured childcare facilities

in Richmond including Bowling Green Day Care and Tree House. They also visited the Richmond School Board.

Early childhood educators from both Canada and China have found this symposium a very important venue for cross-cultural and cross-border exchange of ideas and best practice. Delegates from China intend to disseminate the information they've gathered in Vancouver to their colleagues in China in conferences and publications. ❀

AN UPDATE ON THE PAUL AND EILEEN LIN ENDOWMENT TRUST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In the fall of 2002, Howard Chu, past president of SCLCFC paid a visit to Nanxi Middle School in the impoverished Jin Zhai county of An Hui, China. Recommended by Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Foundation, Nan Xi is the top school among the 35 senior high schools in its region. Many of its graduates have made their way to universities. In 2002 one of them was even admitted by Tsinghua University, arguably the best university in China.

Howard met extensively with teachers, students and local school board officials and observed the poor studying and living conditions of students first hand. Upon return he recommended that Nanxi Middle School be selected as the first school to received funding of the Paul and Eileen Endowment Trust Scholarship Program. The board of trustees approved the recommendation. In the spring of 2003, Howard Chu paid a second visit to Nanxi Middle School to finalize details of the selection and monitoring process with the school authorities and Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Foundation which will act as our monitoring agency.

A scholarship agreement was executed by the Paul and Eileen Lin Endowment Trust, the Nanxi Middle School and the Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Foundation.

In September 2003, Nan Xi High School presented information of candidate students to the board of the Trust for approval. In October 2003, the first installment of 15,000 Chinese Yuan (CNY) was sent to Nanxi Middle School to assist 30 students for the 2003

fall semester. A second installment of CNY15,000 was sent in February 2004 for the 2004 spring semester.

Similar procedures were followed in the Trust's decision to sponsor two middle schools in Ning Xia Hui Autonomous Region in the north western part of China. These two schools are Gu Yuan No. 2 High School and Gu Yuan Hui Minority High School. The three schools are recommended by Beijing Soong Ching Ling Foundation and Howard Chu paid a visit to each one of them on his spring 2003 trip to China. Two installments of CNY 15,000 were funded to benefit 30 students from these high schools for the 2003 fall semester as well as the 2004 spring semester.

In March 2004, Howard Chu was officially appointed as the Executive Director of the Trust. He went on a fact-finding trip to Chi Feng, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of Wu Dan No. 1 High School which was recommended by Beijing Soong Ching Ling Foundation as our third scholarship funding location. Wu Dan No. 1 High School is the largest high school in the area with the best performance records for graduating students. Howard was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the students, teachers and officials alike. He was most impressed by the students' awareness of family and social issues and the importance of education. The school officials are in total agreement with our requirements and Beijing Soong Ching Ling has offered to be our monitoring agency. Howard feels very comfortable to make a recommendation to the Trust to adopt Chi Feng, Inner Mongolia as our third location and Wu Dan No. 1 High School as the beneficiary school.

We are determined to uphold the requirements of our scholarship program, including the establishment of an administration committee, a fair selection process, and periodic visits to these schools to monitor the scholarship program by representatives of the Trust or its monitoring agency. We can not emphasize too much the importance of proper documentation and tracking of the progress of each recipient student. This will enable us to measure the effectiveness of the assistance offered to the students by the scholarship program. ❀

PROFESSOR LIN RECEIVED SOONG CHING LING CAMPHOR TREE HONORARY AWARD

On October 28, 2003, China Welfare Institute (CWI) hosted an award dinner at the Kirin Chinese Restaurant in Richmond to present Professor Paul T.K. Lin the prestigious Soong Ching Ling Camphor Tree Honorary Award.

The camphor tree was the favourite of Mme. Soong Ching Ling, namesake and inspiration of the foundation. It is a beautiful tree, fragrant, solid and moth proof. It is a reflection of Soong Ching Ling's noble image. CWI established the Camphor Tree Award to commemorate Mme Soong Ching Ling and to carry on her cause in caring for the welfare of women and children.

Every year an Honorary Award is dedicated to an individual who has made important contribution to the cause of women and children in the fields of public health, education, physical education, scientific research, etc, regardless of nationality, religious or political affiliation.

Mr. Lu Ping, CWI Vice Chairman travelled from Beijing to Vancouver for this special occasion. He presented Professor Lin with the award and delivered a speech in praise of Professor Lin's dedication and support of the work of the CWI.



In 1996, Professor Lin initiated the founding of the China-Canada Children's Development Research Centre in Shanghai, a joint effort between the SCLCFC and CWI. Professor Lin introduced Dr.

Glen Dixon of the University of British Columbia, an expert in early childhood education and past-president of Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada, to CWI and thus started an ongoing cross-border, cross-cultural exchange of early childhood education theories and practices between educators from China and Canada. Under Dr. Dixon's guidance Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Kindergarten set up an international department where the Montessori and ECE of North American methods were put into practice for the first time in China. Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Kindergarten has since become a model kindergarten where educators from all over China come and learn the latest and best practices in early childhood education.

Promoting education in poorer regions of China is another area that Professor Lin has put a lot of effort into. Over the last decade, Professor Lin together with Mrs. Eileen Lin have contributed to a scholarship program that benefits students who have achieved academic excellence as well their teachers in the most impoverished mountainous region of An Hui, China.

In 2001, Professor and Mrs. Lin, through their Linbridge Foundation, donated \$190,000 representing the entire principal of their personal charity to set up the Paul and Eileen Lin Endowment Trust. Additional funds have been raised to build up the endowment fund to over \$300,000. A scholarship program is established to sponsor students chosen from three senior high schools in An Hui and Ning Xia of China for their tuition as well as living expenses for the entire three years' of senior highschool education.

In his acceptance speech, Professor Lin expressed his gratitude for CWI's bestowing such a great honour to him. He pointed out this award does not belong to him alone. It belongs to all those who share Mme. Soong's vision, love and compassion and try to carry out her legacy to better the life of humanity. 🌸

