

Calgary Chinatowns 1888 ~ 2015

卡加利唐人街 1888 ~ 2015

David Chuenyan Lai 黎全恩 and Lloyd Sciban

After completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1886, Chinese immigrants began to migrate to the Prairies and eastern Canada. Small villages along the railway line gradually developed into small towns and cities; Calgary was one of them.

In the 1870s, Fort Calgary was a small village with a population of less than one hundred. It was officially incorporated as the Town of Calgary under the North-West Territories Ordinance on November 7, 1884 with a population of 506 people and began to grow after the arrival of the CPR line. Around 1885, a few Chinese laundrymen came to Calgary. In June 1888, the Calgary Herald, reported that Hop Sing came from Vancouver and opened a laundry, washing clothing at very low prices. Hence, he forced the other four Chinese laundries into a price war. The four competing businesses eventually united, reduced their prices simultaneously and forced Hop Sing out of business; he then decided to leave Calgary.

First Chinatown, 1888-1910s

In 1888, a few Chinese laundrymen established their business on Stephen Avenue (now 8th Avenue SE) and Atlantic Avenue on the eastern side of the railway station. The existence of this embryonic Chinatown did not draw the attention of Western society until the outbreak of smallpox in 1892. In April, seven persons in Vancouver and Victoria died of smallpox. In June, a Chinese man returning from Vancouver to Calgary contracted the disease. Civil authorities immediately burnt the Chinese laundry he was living in and all its contents, and quarantined all its occupants in a shack outside the town. Blame was put on the Chinese for the subsequent three deaths. When four of the quarantined Chinese were released on August 2, 1892, a mob of over three hundred men smashed the doors and windows of the Chinese laundries, trying to drive the Chinese out of town. For three weeks, the North West Mounted Police had to protect Chinatown and its residents against further attack by the local Whites. This hostility discouraged many Chinese from coming to the city. By 1901, for example, there were only sixty-three Chinese in Calgary, about 1.5% of the city's population. In that year, Chinatown had two restaurants, two grocery stores, one laundry, and a twenty-bed rooming house. Kwong Man Yuen Restaurant was by far the largest business.

Second Chinatown, 1901-1910s

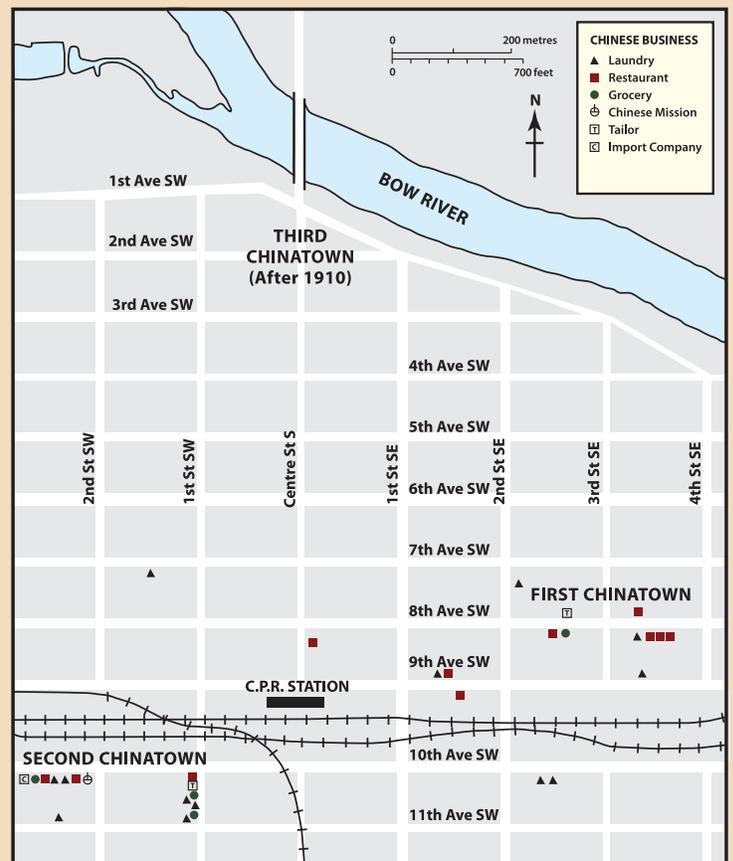
Around 1900, some young Chinese men attended Sunday school classes at Knox Presbyterian Church to learn English. Dr. J.C. Herdman, Minister of the Church, tried in vain to get a building for mission work in Chinatown but was thwarted by local people who did not support the idea of introducing Christianity

加拿大太平洋鐵路在1886年完成後，中國移民開始遷移到大草原和加拿大東部。沿著鐵路的小村莊慢慢逐步發展成為小鎮和城市。卡加利是其中之一。

在十九世紀七十年代，卡加利堡是一個小村莊，人口不到一百。卡加利鎮於1882年成立，加拿大太平洋鐵路線到達後，鎮內人口開始增長至五百人。1885左右，有幾個中國洗衣工人來到卡加利。1888年6月，當地報紙卡加利先驅報報導，說合勝從溫哥華來開了一家洗衣店，以很低的價錢為顧客清洗衣物。因此，逼使其他四間華人洗衣店減價鬥爭。最後，他們聯合起來，共同降低價格，驅使合勝不得不結束營業，合勝於是被逐出卡加利。

第一個唐人街 — 1888年至1910年代

在1888年，幾位華籍洗衣工人在史提芬道（現稱東南第八道）及大西洋道火車站的東側開始營業。直到1892年天花疫症爆發前，這個新興唐人街的崛起，並沒有引起西方社會的



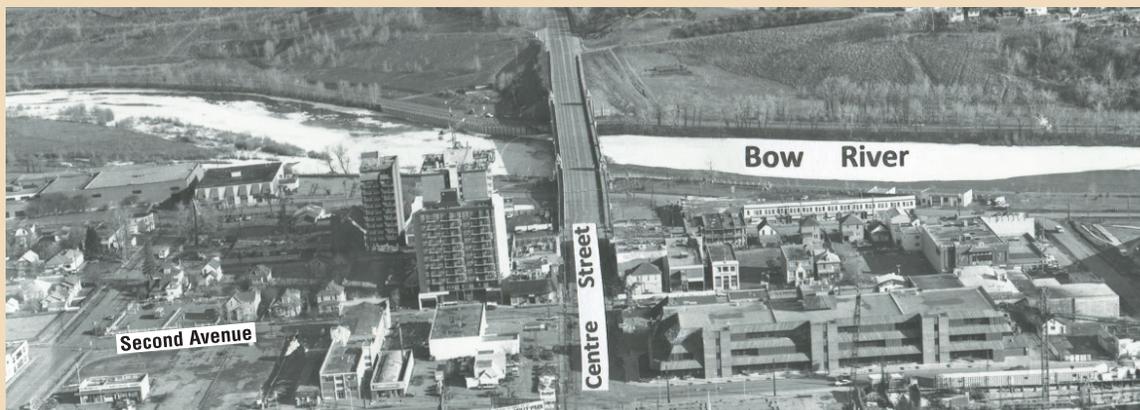
Calgary Chinatown, 1900s
一九零零年代的卡加利唐人街

to “unassimilated Chinese heathens” and so refused to rent him a place. After Thomas Underwood, a devoted Baptist and a prominent contractor heard about this, he built a two-room frame building at 215 Smith Avenue (now 10th Avenue SW) in November 1901 and rented it to Dr. Herdman at a reduced rate so that he could establish a Chinese Mission. The following year he added a second storey for housing thirty-five pupils. As a result, a second Chinatown began to emerge around the Mission.

By 1910, Calgary had two small Chinatowns separated by the railway tracks. The First Chinatown, located on 8th and 9th Avenues SE, consisted of eight restaurants, a grocery store, a tailor shop and several laundries. The Second Chinatown, located on 10th Avenue SW, included the Chinese Mission, three restaurants, six laundries, three grocery stores, a tailor shop, and a row of Chinese dwellings. In both Chinatowns, the Chinese lived in quarters behind their business premises or rooming houses.

The Third Chinatown, 1910-2015

The Canadian Northern Railway announced in 1910 its proposed route into Calgary and considered constructing a hotel depot near the CPR station. Soon after this announcement, the value of properties in the two Chinatowns soared; the landlords immediately expelled the Chinese tenants and sold their properties. This made the Chinese realize that if they owned their properties, they would have a say in Chinatown. In September 1910, several wealthy Chinese merchants purchased a site at the intersection of 2nd Avenue South and Centre Street East, where they planned to establish a new Chinatown. Although the site was considered a “cheap dumping ground” of low-income families, the local residents



Chinatown in 1986
1986年的唐人街

still did not want a Chinatown in their neighbourhood. On October 4, 1910, they approached the city commissioners, and wanted them to set the Chinese to one section of the city, as you would set an isolation hospital. On October 13, a conference on the “Chinese question” was held in City Hall. The Chinese representatives were Lucy Kheong, President of the Chinese Empire Reform Association, and Ho Lem, representing the laundry interests. At the end, it was concluded that no matter where Chinatown was located, there

關注。四月間，有七個人在溫哥華和域多利死於天花疫症。六月份，一位從溫哥華返回卡加利的華人染上病毒，民事當局立即燒毀了他所住之洗衣店及其全部東西，並隔離所有住客於鎮外的一個草屋裡，華人備受指責，使當地三人染病而死亡。1892年8月2日，當四位生病的華人，從隔離區被釋放出來時，三百多名暴徒，砸碎了中國洗衣店的門窗，企圖驅逐華人出城。西北騎警，介入保護唐人街和它的居民，長達三個星期，免被當地白人進一步襲擊。此反華敵意，頓使許多外埠華人氣餒，不敢到卡加利來。因此，到1901年，卡加利華人還只有六十三位，佔城市人口約1.5%。在這年，唐人街只有兩間餐館，兩間食品雜貨店，一家洗衣店和一間有二十個床位的宿舍。廣名園餐館是當時最大的商店。

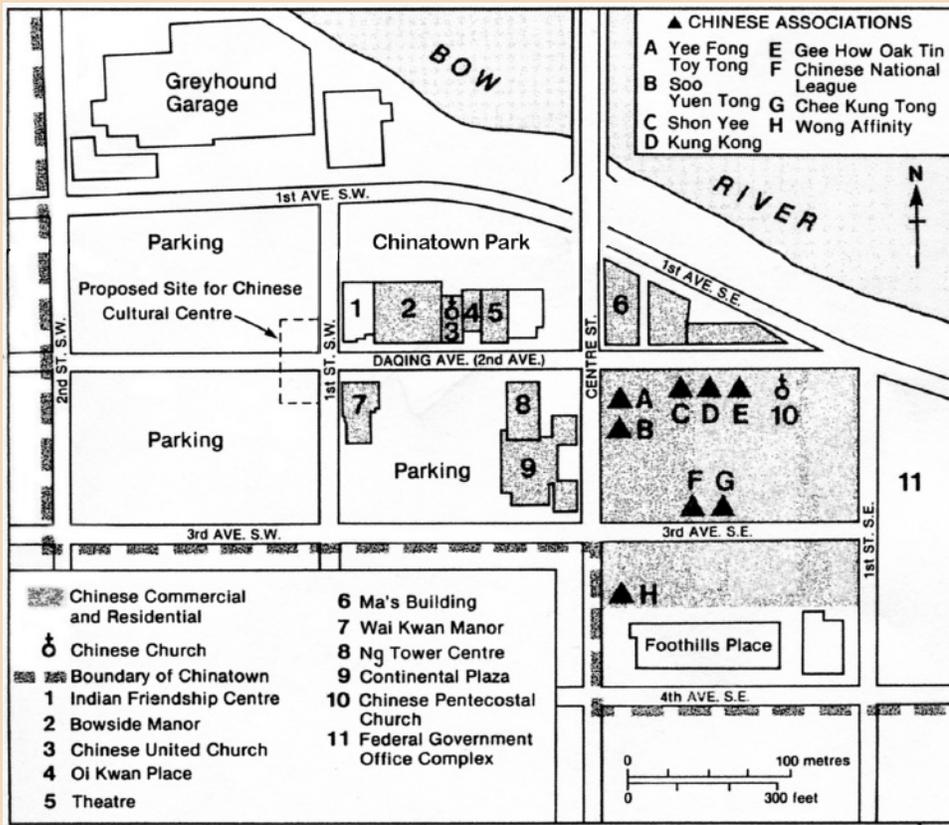
第二個唐人街，1901年至1910年代

1900年左右，一些年青華人，往樂斯長老教會主日學，學習英文。教會牧師何文博士，竭力在唐人街租賃一所房子，以擴展其傳道工作，但徒勞無功，因為當地居民不支持推廣基督教給“未同化的華人異教徒”，而拒絕租出地方給何文博士。後來一位虔誠的浸信會信徒及著名的承包商安德活獲悉此事後，於1901年11月，在史密夫道（現西南第十道）215號，建了一幢有兩個房間的樓房，並以低價租給何文博士，好使他能履行為華人傳道的使命。接著下一年，他又擴建了第二層樓房，能容納多三十五名學生。因此，第二個唐人街就開始在教會的周圍冒起。

到了1910年，卡加利有兩個被鐵路隔開的細小唐人街。第一個唐人街位於東南第八和第九道，包括有八間餐館，一間食品雜貨店，一家裁縫店和幾間洗衣店。第二個唐人街則位於西南第十道，包括有華人教會、三間餐館、六家洗衣店、三間食品雜貨店、一家裁縫店和一排華人居所。華人多數居於店舖後面或出租房間。

第三個唐人街，1910年至2015

1910年加拿大北方鐵路公司宣佈伸展往卡加利的路線，並考慮在加拿大太平洋鐵路站附近，蓋建一間旅館。這個消息公佈後，兩個唐人街的地產價值飆升，房東們立即驅逐華人租客和出售他們的房地產。這一舉讓華人醒覺到如果他們



Calgary Chinatown, 1986
1986年的卡加利唐人街

在唐人街擁有產業，他們便可擁有自主權。在1910年9月，幾位富裕的華商，購買了南第二道與東中央街交界的一幅土地，計劃在該處興建一個新的唐人街。儘管該處被認為是低收入家庭的“廉價垃圾場”，當地居民仍不想在他們附近有一個唐人街。1910年10月4日，他們會見市政府事務官，要求徙置華人到城市一處偏遠的地方，就像設置隔離醫院一樣。10月13日市政廳舉行“華人問題”研討會。華人代表有保皇會會長姜露西女仕和洗衣店代表何榮禧。最後，研討會的結論是無論興建唐人街在哪裡，當地的居民也會反對的。因此，研討會議決唐人街將建於南第二道與東中央街交界。1910年代末期，所有第一個和第二個唐人街的華人和商店，都已全部搬入第三個唐人街。

1921年，卡城華人人數達到688人（649男39女），他們大多數都住在唐人街。唐人街內建立了幾個堂所，例如至孝公所，林西河堂，馬氏公所，瑞賢堂（又稱遼源堂）和中國國民黨等。加拿大政府

would be objections from residents of the area. Thus, to all intents, the location of the Third Chinatown at the intersection of 2nd Avenue South and Centre Street was confirmed at the conference. By the late 1910s, all the remaining Chinese residents and businesses in the First and Second Chinatowns had moved out and left for the Third Chinatown.

In 1921, the Chinese population in Calgary reached 688 (649 male and 39 female) and most of them lived in Chinatown. Several associations such as Gee How Gong Shaw, Lum See Ho Tong, the Mah Association, Shuo Yuen Tong, and the Chinese National League were established on 2nd Avenue and Centre Street. After the Canadian government introduced the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923, the Chinese population across Canada began to decrease. For example, the Chinese population in Calgary declined from 1,045 in 1931 to about 800 in 1941.

推行1923年之排華入境法案後，加拿大華人人數開始大減。例如，1931年卡加利華人人數是1,045人，到1941年，只減至800人。

1950年代，卡城的唐人街範圍包括南岸弓河約十個街區。1966年，市區總體規劃包括建議興建一條貫穿南第二和南第三道的幹線大道，這建議將會毀滅半個唐人街。因此，一些華人組成了善樂社，動員社區華人反對這個計劃。該提案被擱置後，社區的華人在1969年8月組織了卡城中華協會，協館包括二十四個華人社團，如善樂社，致公堂，馬氏公所等。協館領導全僑保護唐人街和促進中華文化和社會活動。



Oi Kwan Place
愛群大廈

1974年，市議會劃定約20公頃地方作為“唐人街”區，指定它為街坊改善計劃地區。華埠發展專責小組在1973年成立，撰寫了卡城唐人街設計簡要方案，建議保留唐人街，並把它發展成一個為華人及非華人而設的住宅區。市議會1976年批准此方案，標籤著卡城唐人街復原及美化的開始。

至1980年時，卡城唐人街道路已被清理乾淨，許多老舊



Sien Lok Park
善樂公園

During the 1950s, Calgary's Chinatown encompassed about ten city blocks on the south bank of the Bow River. In 1966, the Downtown Master Plan included a



Gee How Oak Tin Association (Chan, Woo, Yuen)
至考篤親公所 (陳、胡、袁)

proposal to construct a parkway road between 2nd and 3rd Avenues South, which would have resulted in the elimination of half of Chinatown. In response, a group of concerned Chinese citizens formed the Sien Lok Society and mobilized the Chinese community to oppose the plan. After the proposal was shelved, the Chinese community organized as the United Calgary Chinese Association (UCCA) in August 1969, which included twenty-four Chinese associations such as the Sien Lok Society, Chee Kung Tong, and the Mah Association. The UCCA worked as a common front to protect Chinatown and promote Chinese cultural and social activities.

In 1974, City Council delineated an area of about twenty hectares as “Chinatown,” designating it a Neighbourhood Improvement



Calgary Chinatown Seniors Centre
卡城華埠耆英中心

Program area. The Chinatown Development Task Force, formed in 1973, prepared the Calgary Chinatown Design Brief which recommended that Chinatown be retained and developed as a residential community for

both Chinese and non-Chinese. It was approved by Council in 1976, marking the beginning of the rehabilitation of Calgary’s Chinatown. By 1980, streets in Chinatown had been cleaned up and many old, derelict houses were demolished to make way for redevelopment projects. The Calgary Chinatown Development Foundation (CDF), formed by George Ho Lem, was an organization of about 170 professional and non-professional people. With funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the CDF constructed Oi Kwan Place, a senior citizens’ home, in 1976. Other high-rise buildings such as Bowside Manor, Bow Central Plaza (now known as Five Harvest Plaza), and Ng Tower Centre were also built. As these

及廢棄的房屋被拆除以備重建。何榮禧成立之卡加利華埠發展基金會，由約170名專業和非專業人士組成的。資金來自加拿大抵押和房屋公司，華埠發展基金會在1976年蓋建了愛群大廈，它是一座耆英住所。其他的高層建築如河邊大廈，弓邊中央廣場（現稱五豐收廣場）和伍氏中心，也相繼建成。在這些發展項目進行中，卡城中華協館及華埠發展基金會，開始意見分歧。1982年，華埠發展基金會希望在唐人街發展高密度住宅和商業用地，但卡城中華協館則主張唐人街必須保留為一個低密度地區，應該根據1976年撰寫的設計方案，建議建造小型及更多中型公寓樓宇。一些唐人街業主和商人，於1982年，另外組織了卡加利唐人街納稅人協會，要求高密度發展，使爭端更變得複雜化。最後，市議會聘請了一位顧問，成立唐人街發展計劃工作研討會，於1984年完成唐人街區域重建計劃書。計劃建議在唐人街核心內，蓋建中型至高密度商住樓宇，在其周邊，則發展高密度商業用地。計劃書更推薦在西南第二街及西南第二道（大慶路）的交叉點西側，建設

中華文化中心。在1980年代，興建了耆英之家例如惠群大廈，華英大廈及華埠公園，也稱善樂公園。拆除破舊社團樓宇。在地興建新樓宇。美化街道及安裝新穎中式的燈柱。在1990年代，中華文化中心和卡城華人耆英中心完成創建。



Chinese Cultural Centre
中華文化中心

通過新設施的增加，卡加利唐人街一直努力吸引遊客。自1992年啟用兩年後，文化中心每年舉辦中國春節慶祝活動。這些慶祝活動每次均吸引兩萬多訪客，省長及市長和許多高層政府官員亦有出席助慶。自2001年以來，每年八月，卡加利華商會主辦的卡加利唐人街藝術節，吸引超過七萬人參加，訪客前來觀賞中國傳統工藝美術，購物，甚至打街頭曲棍球。在2010年，卡加利唐人街慶祝百年華誕。卡加利市政府正式宣佈10月13日為唐人街日（紀念1910年同日，市議會批准卡加利華人蓋建及擁有一幢樓宇。）



Wing Kei Care Centre
榮基護理中心



High Density Development in Chinatown
唐人街高密度發展

development projects were in progress, dissension between the UCCA and the CDF surfaced. In 1982, the CDF wanted high-density development for residential and commercial use in Chinatown but the UCCA

wanted Chinatown to remain a low-density area, as originally recommended in the 1976 design brief, and called for small buildings and more medium-size apartment buildings. The dispute was complicated further in 1982 when some Chinatown landowners and businessmen established another organization known as the Chinatown Ratepayers Association of Calgary (CRAC) and asked for high-density development. Eventually, City Council hired an outside consultant to conduct a Chinatown design workshop and produced the Chinatown Area Redevelopment Plan in 1984. The Plan recommended medium to high density projects in the Chinatown core, and high density commercial land use at its perimeter. It also proposed construction of the Chinese Cultural Centre on the west side of the intersection of 2nd Street and 2nd Avenue Southwest (Daqing Avenue). In the 1980s, senior citizens' homes such as Wai Kwan Manor and Wah Ying Mansion, and Chinatown Park, also known as Sien Lok Park, were built. Several old association buildings were demolished and replaced by new buildings. Streets were beautified and new Chinese lamp-posts installed. In the 1990s, the Chinese Cultural Centre and Calgary Chinatown Seniors Centre were completed.

With the addition of newer facilities, Calgary's Chinatown has worked to attract visitors. The Cultural Centre has been organizing Chinese New Year celebrations since its opening in 1992. These celebrations draw twenty thousand visitors annually and are attended by many high ranking government officials, such as the premier and the mayor. The Calgary Chinatown Festival organized by the Calgary Chinese Merchants Association has been held every August since 2001 and has attracted upwards of seventy thousand participants who come to sample traditional Chinese arts and crafts, shop, and even play street hockey. Calgary's Chinatown also celebrated its centennial in 2010 and the City of Calgary officially declared October 13 (the date in 1910 that City Council approved the construction and ownership of a building by Calgary's Chinese) as Chinatown Day.

Chinatown continues to face the challenge of a dispersed Calgary Chinese population that can often meet its cultural needs closer to home. However, the strong tradition and the growing trade with China continue to fortify Chinatown. In 2012 the Oi Kwan

唐人街繼續面臨挑戰。能否達到卡加利分散的華人對文化及期望能設在居所附近的需求。然而，悠長深遠的傳統和與中國貿易的增長，不斷鞏固唐人街。在2012年，愛群基金會完成興建了一幢十六層高的大樓，增加了耆英在唐人街居住之需求。同時唐人街餐館的普及性和多元性亦不斷提升，為許多與中國有商業來往而把辦公室

設在此處的商務人士服務。前瞻未來，週末慶祝活動需要大型場館的要求，年年可待。這推動了更多服務行業公司的湧現。於是，唐人街由中央大街向北部延伸至第十六路。在1999年，有報導指出加拿大華裔擁有此區域業權已達百份之六十。2013年夏季，卡城經歷了阿爾拔省史上最嚴重的水災。唐人街商戶面對重建營運的巨大挑戰。商戶在2015年喜獲卡城政府納唐人街為商業重建計劃區(BRZ)，商戶得以合力籌款用於重整旗鼓及推廣唐人街。

域多利和溫哥華的唐人街美化後，仍保留在第二次世界大戰前社團所蓋建的建築物及其二十世紀唐人街早期景觀的一些特點。在卡加利唐人街的美化過程中，幾乎拆毀所有戰前的建築物，在空地修建新的高層樓宇。戰前唐人街城市景觀的痕跡寥寥可數。因此，卡加利唐人街應視為「替代的唐人街」而不是「重修美化的舊店人街」。



Central Landmark
新亞洲廣場



1986



1992

2nd Avenue Southwest (Daqing Avenue), 1986 and 1992
1986年與1992年的西南第二道（大慶路）

Foundation completed a sixteen-storey building adding to the housing available to seniors in Chinatown. At the same time the popularity and diversity of restaurants in Chinatown is on the rise, many serving the businesspeople who conduct trade with China out of offices located there, and the demand for large venues to host weekend celebrations extends years into the future. This push for more services has seen the spread of Chinatown north on Centre Street to 16th



1986



1992

Chinatown in 1986 and 1992
1986及1992年的唐人街

Avenue, which was reported already 60 percent owned by Chinese Canadians in 1999. Chinatown businesses suffered as a result of the 2013 flood and have faced a major challenge in their efforts to recover. In 2015, much to the delight of business owners, Calgary's Chinatown became a Business Revitalisation



Central Landmark in Chinatown
唐人街新亞洲廣場

Zone (BRZ). This allows owners to jointly raise and administer funds to improve and promote their businesses. After the rehabilitation, Victoria and Vancouver Chinatowns retained many of their association buildings built before World War II and some characteristics of the early twentieth century Chinatown streetscape. For this reason they can be classified as "Rehabilitated Chinatowns". In contrast, new high-rise buildings were constructed inside and around Calgary's Chinatown. These changes virtually wiped out the pre-war buildings leaving few traces of the pre-war Chinatown landscape. Hence, Calgary's Chinatown is best categorized as a "Replaced Chinatown" rather than a "Rehabilitated Old Chinatown".

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This document is part of a series of companions to *A Brief Chronology of Chinese Canadian History: from Segregation to Integration* which presents a national overview. These documents offer a more detailed account of specific Chinatowns that are an integral part of Canada's history.

“加拿大唐人街系列”是全國性的華裔歷史文獻 -- 「加拿大華裔歷史紀要：從隔離至融合」的附帶冊子，為個別的唐人街作更詳細介紹，因為唐人街的歷史是加拿大歷史中不可忽略的部份。

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The Chinese Canadian History Project Council gratefully acknowledges the support of both the Calgary Chinese Community Service Association 卡城華人社區服務中心 and the Calgary Chinatown Lion's Club 卡加利華埠獅子會 in assisting with the promotion and successful launch of the Calgary edition of the Canada Chinatown Series.



Chinese Canadian Heritage Fund

楓華文化發展基金

Fond de l'Héritage Chinois-Canadien

PUBLISHER
出版者

SFU

Simon Fraser University
David See-Chai Lam Centre for International Communication
西門菲沙大學林思齊國際交流中心
www.cic.sfu.ca

