

# MOTION

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## **Re: Request for Federal Proclamation of February as Chinese Canadian Heritage Month**

Moved by: Councillor Amanda Yeung Collucci

Seconded by: Mayor Frank Scarpitti

### **WHEREAS:**

- The Chinese Canadian community has made profound and lasting contributions to the economic, cultural, and social development of Canada since the 19th century;
- Chinese Canadians have played a foundational role in nation-building, including in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway and in the growth of communities across the country;
- Chinese Canadians have endured historical injustices, including the Head Tax (1885–1923) and the Chinese Exclusion Act (1923–1947), and have demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and continued commitment to Canada’s progress;
- The City of Markham was the first municipality in Canada to formally proclaim February as Chinese Heritage Month and has long been a leader in celebrating Chinese culture, heritage, and contributions;
- The Regional Municipality of York has also formally proclaimed February as Chinese Heritage Month, recognizing the significant contributions of the Chinese Canadian community within the region;
- The Province of Ontario officially proclaimed February as Chinese Heritage Month through the Chinese Heritage Month Act, 2024, building on previous work and advocacy from municipalities such as Markham;
- There are approximately 1.8 million Canadians of Chinese origin or heritage, representing one of the largest and most diverse communities in Canada;
- While May is recognized nationally as Asian Heritage Month, it does not fully reflect or highlight the unique history, experiences, and contributions of the Chinese Canadian community;
- Asian Heritage Month was established to recognize the broader Asian community made up of many different cultural groups and representing people of diverse backgrounds;
- Other communities have received dedicated federal heritage month recognition, including Sikh Heritage Month (April), Filipino Heritage Month (June), Islamic Heritage Month (October), and Hindu Heritage Month (November);
- National recognition of Chinese Canadian Heritage Month would promote greater awareness, inclusion, education, and celebration of Chinese Canadian history and their contributions across Canada;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Council of the City of Markham formally requests the Government of Canada to proclaim the month of February as Chinese Canadian Heritage Month;
2. That this motion be forwarded to: The Minister of Canadian Heritage; Members of Parliament representing the City of Markham and York Region; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and Large urban municipalities across Canada;
3. That the City of Markham affirms its continued commitment to recognizing and celebrating Chinese Heritage Month annually and supporting initiatives that promote cultural understanding, inclusion, and community engagement;
4. That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to all Members of Parliament.

CARRIED