



Canada-China Friendship Society® La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa (CCFS-O) Annual General Meeting, November 19, 2015

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The last year has been another active one for the Society. We have organized ten events which are listed at the end of this report. Attendance at the Speaker events ranged between 60 to 125 people. We had very impressive speakers that covered a wide range of subjects and the question and answer periods were quite lively. Our membership now stands at about 250, the largest in the history of the CCFSO. The Chinese New Year's Banquet was completely sold out with 210 present and the silent auction was the biggest and most successful in our history. Many thanks to banquet Chair, Roxanne Hamel.

One highlight of the year was the Canadian premiere of the film *Nowhere to Call Home*, directed by an American journalist, Jocelyn Ford. It is a documentary film about a Tibetan woman migrating with her son to Beijing. We screened the film at the Mayfair Theatre and organized a connection by Skype with the Director for a discussion following the film.

Another highlight was a private showing of the National Gallery of Canada's collection of Chinese Paintings organized by Anke Kausch of Carleton University. It was limited to members only due to the size of the room but two groups of 20 registered and those who attended were treated to a memorable afternoon.

The speakers programme explored China's changing relations with its geographic neighbours, changes and challenges in the China's political leadership, and an on-the-ground exploration of China from Beijing to Kashgar.

In the Spring we hosted a six person delegation from the Shanghai Friendship Society. We facilitated meetings for them with education officials from the Ottawa Carleton District School Board where they discussed possible future educational and cultural exchanges between high schools in Ottawa and China.

In April we also solicited applications for delegates to the Beijing International Forum held this November. Three delegates were selected among the six or seven applications and we expect to hear from them when they return to Canada later this month. Thanks to members of the Selection Committee headed by Nataly Azzi.

During the summer the Executive held a one day strategic planning session. The CCFSO's Mission statement was affirmed and the outcome / result statement was refined.

- Mission – Helping Canadians to learn more about China and to understand it better.

- Outcome / result - and thereby help Canadians acquire a more realistic and comprehensive understanding of China and its changing role in the world and the implications for Canada; and, enable them be exposed to, better engage with, and appreciate its culture.

These provide the *raison d'être*, the motivation and the focus of the Executive's efforts.

Two planning goals were agreed to guide the Executive's plans and development over the next 2-3 years.

- Planning goal 1: Significantly increase the scope and reach of our outreach to Canadians
- Planning goal 2: Strengthen and evolve our product lines and create proficient and modern product line-target group oriented outreach and marketing strategies

To achieve these goals we will be seeking to proactively identify specific groups of Canadians with an interest in China and to develop targeted means of connecting with them, and tailoring our programmes to attract their interest and engagement. Among other things we agreed to pursue more movie nights, to establish a pilot project of Mandarin Conversation Circles, and to make more use of social media. Two volunteers, Mercy Danquah and Saeid Rahmani, offered to coordinate the Mandarin Conversation Circles. Two sub-Committees of the Executive were formed to pursue movie nights and the expanded use of social media.

Our China Book Club, headed by Marilyn Collette, continues to meet regularly—about once every month. In March our co-president participated in a panel on Asia organized by the Undergraduate Student Society of Ottawa University

We want to thank all members of the Executive for the many hours they put in to organize all these activities and for their general co-operation during the last year. Two members of our Executive will not be Standing for re-election, our Secretary Jean Pierre Bolduc and our Vice President Margaret McCuaig-Johnston. I want to thank them for their work over the years.

We would like to acknowledge the continuing collaboration of the Embassy of China. They once again hosted a reception for all our members in January and provided a number of gifts that were used to raise money in the very successful silent auction that takes place at the Banquet.

Gary Levy
Co-President
October 30, 2015

Roy Atkinson
Co-President
October 30, 2015

CCFS-Ottawa Events During Fiscal Year 2014-2015

- Oct 15 2014 **China's Big Shift: Politics & Society Before & After the 1978 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee**, Charles Burton, Brock University
- Nov. 7, 2014: **Presentation on Chinese Calligraphy**, Professor Nie Chengwen, Vice-Chairman China Calligraphers Association
- Nov.20, 2014: Annual General Meeting and presentation ***Prospects for Long-term Peace on China's Maritime Borders?*** Gordon Holden, University of Alberta.
- Jan. 22, 2015: ***Xi Jinping as Helmsman: Course Changes for China***, Howard Balloch, former Ambassador to China
- Jan. 27, 2015: **Reception at Chinese Embassy**, Members only.
- Feb. 9, 2015: **Annual Chinese New Year Banquet**, held at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant
- Mar. 25, 2015: ***Individualists and Eccentrics—Chinese Paintings from the Collection of the National Gallery of Canada***, Anke Kausch, Carleton University. A private showing of the gallery's Chinese paintings, for members only.
- Apr. 23, 2015: ***Hong Kong and Society: Demytstifying the "Umbrella Revolution"***, Frank Ling, former Chair, Hong Kong—Canada Business Association.
- May 20, 2015: **Canadian premiere of film "*Nowhere to Call Home: A Tibetan in Beijing*"** with participation of Director, Jocelyn Ford by Skype.
- June 22, 2015: **China and its Asian Pacific Neighbours**, Stewart Beck, President and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation.
- Sept 19, 2015: **Road to Kashgar: Notes for a Walk Through China**, Lars Ellstrom, Swedish author of book by the same name.