

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
on 31 May 2002**

Report on the Legislative Council Delegation's Visit to Canada

Purpose

This paper attaches the report on the Legislative Council delegation's visit to Canada from 16 to 24 February 2002.

Visit to Canada

2. On 9 November 2001, the House Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee that a delegation of Legislative Council Members should visit Canada and the United States (US) in February 2002. The composition of the delegation was endorsed by the House Committee on 30 November 2001.

3. On the advice of the Washington Office of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office that no congressional calls could be arranged during the period of the visit due to the congressional break in the US, the House Committee subsequently accepted on 4 January 2002 the delegation's recommendation to cancel the US portion of the visit.

4. From 16 to 24 February 2002, the delegation visited Ottawa and Toronto in Canada. It considers that the visit has been very successful in reinforcing links with Canada, keeping the Canadian community abreast of the latest developments in Hong Kong and fostering better mutual understanding. It is particularly delighted to note the continuing interest in Hong Kong affairs expressed by the various parliamentarians as well as community and business leaders.

Advice sought

5. The delegation's report on the visit, detailing the programme and the discussions held, is attached. Members are invited to take note of the report.

Legislative Council Secretariat

28 May 2002

Report on the Legislative Council Delegation's Visit to Canada

16 to 24 February 2002

I. Introduction

On 9 November 2001, the House Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee that a delegation of Legislative Council (LegCo) Members should visit Canada and the United States (US) in February 2002. The objectives of the visit were to enhance the Council's ties with the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, foster liaison with members of the US Congress, and to update them on the latest developments in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). A delegation comprising the following Members was formed:

- ✧ Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP (*Leader of delegation*)
- ✧ Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong (*Deputy Leader of delegation*)
- ✧ Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
- ✧ Hon CHAN Kwok-keung
- ✧ Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung, BBS
- ✧ Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
- ✧ Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung

2. The delegation recommended cancelling the US portion of the visit after considering the advice of the Washington Office of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office that no congressional calls could be arranged for the delegation due to the congressional break in the US during the period of visit. The House Committee accepted the recommendation on 4 January 2002.

3. Miss Sandy CHU, Senior Assistant Secretary in Council Business Division 3, accompanied the delegation on the visit.

II. Programme

4. From 16 to 24 February 2002, the delegation visited Ottawa and Toronto in Canada. During the nine-day visit, the delegation held meetings with parliamentarians, senior government officials and representatives of business organizations and a think-tank. The delegation also visited major overseas Chinese social, health care and cultural organizations. The visit programme is in **Appendix I**.

Ottawa

5. While in Ottawa, the delegation attended a reception held by the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group after a tour around Parliament Hill. A meeting and a luncheon meeting were held respectively with two Standing Committees of the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament, viz. the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, and the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The delegation also called on Mr Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of Ottawa.

6. Senior officials from Environment Canada, Health Canada and Industry Canada of the federal government gave the delegation briefings on the policy areas on environmental protection, health care and information and communications technology. The delegation also met senior officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

7. The delegation had a meeting with Ms Nancy Hughes Anthony, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and visited a think-tank, The Conference Board of Canada.

Toronto

8. In Toronto, the delegation met Councillor Mike Feldman, Chair of the Economic Development and Parks Committee of Toronto City Council, after a tour of the City Hall. The delegation also toured Ontario's Legislative Building.

9. The delegation received a briefing by Mr Patrick Deutscher, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Economist of the Office of Economic Policy of the Ontario Ministry of Finance, and had a meeting with Mr G Douglas Valentine, Director of World Trade Centre Toronto of The Toronto Board of Trade. The delegation attended a breakfast meeting with the Board of Directors of the Toronto Section of the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association and a lunch with the Presidents of the five major Chinese business associations of Greater Toronto.

10. The delegation visited the HKSAR Government's Economic and Trade Office in Toronto (HKETO), the Toronto Offices of the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada. The delegation also visited a number of public and private organizations: the Canada-Hong Kong Resource Centre in the University of Toronto, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, The Hospital for Sick Children and Mon Sheong Centre. The visit to the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care was followed by a luncheon hosted by Dr Joseph WONG, Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation. During its visit to The Hospital for Sick Children, the delegation met Dr Lap-Chee TSUI, Geneticist-in-Chief and Head of the Genetics and Genomic

Biology Programme of The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute. A Canadian Chinese youth group comprising students of schools and universities in Toronto had the opportunity to have a dialogue with the delegation during its visit to Mon Sheong Centre.

III. Highlights of the programme and main points of discussions

OTTAWA

18 February 2002 (Monday)

Briefing by The Conference Board of Canada

11. The delegation visited The Conference Board of Canada, which is Canada's leading non-profit, independent applied research institution, and received a briefing on its work by Mr Dan LeMaire, Programme Manager, Mr Peter Hall, Associate Director-Economic Forecasting, and Mr Al Howatson, Principal Research Associate-Regulatory Policy Alternatives. Mr LeMaire told the delegation that the Conference Board's mission was to help its member organizations anticipate and respond to the increasingly changing global economy. The Conference Board did this through the development and exchange of knowledge about organizational strategies and practices, emerging economic and social trends and key public policy issues. Mr Hall provided the delegation with an insight into Canada's economic outlook for the period 2001-03, whereas Mr Howatson gave a briefing on some recent environment-related projects undertaken by the Board.

12. The Board has a staff of about 200. It provides objective information and analysis on various issues to close to 600 member organizations in a wide variety of ways, such as publications, study tours, briefings, seminars and conferences.

13. Through the briefing, members of the delegation were able to gain an appreciation of the Board's role in influencing public policy and shaping opinions.

Briefing by Environment Canada

14. Environment Canada, which was established in 1971, is Canada's environmental ministry. It has primary but not exclusive responsibility for the country's environmental policy. This includes directly managing 15 statutes relating to the environment, as well as coordinating the development of federal policies and the actions of other departments with respect to the environment. Its stated objective is "to foster a national capacity for sustainable development

in cooperation with other governments, departments of government, and the private sector". Its three main programme areas are atmospheric environment, environmental protection and environmental conservation.

15. Mr John Arseneau, Director-General of Environment Canada, gave an introduction on the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). The delegation was informed that the CEPA is the most important environment statute, covering human and environmental health. On 31 March 2000, the federal government enacted a renewed CEPA 1999, which declared that the protection of the environment was essential to the well-being of Canadians and provided the Minister of the Environment with new powers and tools to protect the environment and human health and to contribute to sustainable development through pollution prevention.

16. Other officials of Environment Canada briefed the delegation on the Canadian government's initiatives in the management of emissions, effluents and solid waste. The officials also touched on the Walkerton Inquiry. The delegation was told that in May 2000, the drinking water system of Walkerton, a small town in southern Ontario, became contaminated with deadly bacteria, primarily E.coli 0157:H7, which caused deaths and illnesses among the residents of the town.

17. Members of the delegation found the briefing informative and were impressed with the Canadian Government's comprehensive policies and measures for tackling air and water pollution.

Call on Mr Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of Ottawa

18. Mr Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of Ottawa, welcomed the delegation and briefed members on the economic developments in Ottawa and the sources of revenue of the city government. During the discussion, Mr Chiarelli and the delegation exchanged information on the different levels of elections in Canada and the composition of the Hong Kong LegCo.

Meeting with Ms Nancy Hughes Anthony, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce

19. Established in 1925, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is Canada's largest national business association. It is the influential advocate for Canadian business, with a membership that covers the broad spectrum of private enterprises.

20. Ms Hughes Anthony said that the Chamber sought to create a climate for competitiveness, profitability, and job creation for businesses of all sizes in all sectors across Canada. The Chamber did this through public policy advocacy at the federal level and by providing its Corporate Members with a full range of market-driven services. She further informed the delegation that when important federal legislation or regulation was being planned or debated, the Chamber could mobilize concerned business people across the country and reach every Member of Parliament.

21. During the meeting, members of the delegation also exchanged views with Ms Hughes Anthony on the following subjects:

- the impact of China's accession to the World Trade Organisation on Canada;
- labour relations and taxation system in Canada vis-à-vis those in Hong Kong; and
- businessmen's entry into politics.

Tour around Parliament Hill

22. The delegation had a short tour of the buildings on Parliament Hill which were built between 1865 and 1927. It received an introduction on the history and architecture of and the facilities in these heritage buildings, and had the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the art items inside.

Reception held by the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group

23. The Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in June 1992 from among interested members of the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Friendship Group currently consists of about 30 members with Mr Bryon Wilfert as Chairman. Apart from Mr Wilfert, another 10 Members of Parliament (MPs) joined the reception.

24. In his speech, Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah said that the delegation was honoured to have the opportunity to reinforce ties with Members of the Canadian Parliament. Although the last official visit paid by Members of Legislative Council to Canada took place in 1992, on a regular basis members of the Council received Members of the Canadian Parliament, and senior government officials and dignitaries from Canada who visited Hong Kong. Dr LUI also stressed that Hong Kong always cherished its links and friendship with Canada and, for that matter, the international community.

25. During the reception, members of the delegation and the MPs had informal exchanges over a wide range of subjects, including an update on the latest political, social and economic developments in Hong Kong.

19 February 2002 (Tuesday)

Briefing by Health Canada

26. Health Canada is the federal department which is, in partnership with provincial and territorial governments, responsible for developing health policy, enforcing health regulations, promoting disease prevention and enhancing healthy living for all Canadians. Through administration of the Canada Health Act, Health Canada is committed to maintaining the health insurance system which is universally available to permanent residents, comprehensive in the services it covers, accessible without income barriers, portable within the country and publicly-funded.

27. During his briefing on Canadian health care system “Medicare”, Mr Serge Lafond, Senior Policy Advisor of the Health Policy and Communications Branch of Health Canada, explained the functional responsibilities of the federal government, provincial and territorial governments and regional health authorities, as well as the universal programme and the additional benefits programme under the health insurance system. The delegation understood that “Medicare” is a predominately publicly-funded, privately-delivered health care system. It provides universal, comprehensive coverage for medically necessary hospital, in-patient and out-patient physician services. The federal government, the ten provinces, and the three territories play key roles in the health care system in Canada.

Meeting with the Canadian Parliament’s House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology

28. Members of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology welcomed the delegation and the close parliamentary contacts maintained with the Hong Kong LegCo. Members of the delegation and the Committee members then exchanged views on the following subjects:

- rising unemployment in Hong Kong;
- restructuring of the manufacturing sector in Hong Kong;
- developments in the manufacturing sector in Canada;
- advantages of the business environment in Hong Kong;
- Canada vis-à-vis Hong Kong in the funding support for research and development activities;

- implementation of competition law in Canada;
- the HKSAR Government's position on the introduction of competition law;
- the impact of China's accession to the World Trade Organisation on Hong Kong; and
- deregulation of Hong Kong's electricity supply sector in 2008.

Luncheon meeting with the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

29. The luncheon was hosted by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. Apart from Mrs Karen Kraft Sloan, the Vice Chair, and other members of the Standing Committee, Mr Walt Lastewka, Chair of the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, also attended the luncheon.

30. Members of the delegation and the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development exchanged views on a variety of subjects, in particular environmental issues in Hong Kong.

Meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

31. The delegation had a meeting with senior officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, including Mr David Mulroney, Assistant Deputy Minister - Asia-Pacific. The subjects raised included:

- trade relations between Hong Kong and Canada;
- the economic future of Hong Kong;
- the role of Hong Kong as a Chinese herbal medicine centre;
- trade relations between China and Taiwan;
- Canada's concern over human rights in China;
- banning of some LegCo Members from entering Mainland China; and
- future changes in the composition of the LegCo.

Briefing by Industry Canada

32. Industry Canada is the federal department with the mandate to help make Canadians more productive and competitive in the knowledge-based economy. It works to fulfil this mandate by developing and sustaining a micro-economic policy environment, and through programmes and services directly aimed at Canadian businesses and consumers across the country.

33. Mr Jean-Claude Bouchard, Assistant Deputy Minister - Operations Sector of Industry Canada, briefly introduced the latest developments in Canada's information and communications technology sector. The Canadian Government has a long-standing commitment to use and deploy information and communications technology in all facets of the Canadian society. Industry Canada's ongoing goal is to make Canada the most connected country in the world so that Canadians have affordable access to the Information Highway through the Connecting Canadians initiative. As part of the project, a related goal is to make Canada a location of choice for the development of electronic commerce products and services, which would attract investment and stimulate innovation throughout the economy.

34. On Canada's access to foreign markets, Mr Bouchard said that although the US market would always remain critically important to Canada, diversification of Canada's trade base towards emerging high growth markets was also essential. In this regard, Industry Canada contributed to this effort by assisting Canadian businesses in exploiting trade opportunities in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Mr Bouchard would be leading a delegation of Canadian information and communications technologies firms to participate at the Hong Kong Information Infrastructure Expo and Conference to be held in early March 2002.

20 February 2002 (Wednesday)

Visit to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto

35. Mrs Rosanna Ure, Director of the HKETO in Toronto, gave the delegation a very informative briefing on the work of the HKETO.

36. The delegation was informed that the HKETO was responsible for the HKSAR's economic and trade relations with Canada. The HKETO closely monitors developments which might affect Hong Kong's economic and trade interests and promotes Hong Kong's interests by liaising with government officials, politicians, businessmen, journalists, think-tanks, academics, professional groups in order to enhance their understanding of the HKSAR, and by organizing events to promote a positive image of Hong Kong.

Tour of the City Hall

37. The delegation had a short tour of the City Hall and received a briefing on the special features and design of the building. It was also invited to observe the proceedings of a committee meeting of the Toronto City Council.

Meeting with Councillor Mike Feldman, Chair of Economic Development and Parks Committee, Toronto City Council

38. Councillor Mike Feldman, Chair of Economic Development and Parks Committee of Toronto City Council, briefed the delegation on the latest economic situation in Toronto. Mr Feldman said that Ontario was the hardest hit province in Canada in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US because of the sharp decrease in the number of US tourists and the tighter control at the US/Canada border. Nevertheless, with the recent depreciation of the Canadian dollar, the performance of Canada's tourism industry should be able to improve. Toronto was also making an effort to promote itself to US visitors as a holiday destination on weekends.

39. Referring to the huge Chinese population in Toronto, Mr Feldman affirmed that Chinese Canadians had made significant contribution to Canada and a better appreciation of Chinese cultural heritage and values was apparent in Canada, particularly in Toronto. Members of the delegation noted Mr Feldman's view that, Canada being the preferred destination of Hong Kong immigrants over the past decade, the relationship between Hong Kong and Canada had become very strong.

Tour of Ontario's Legislative Building

40. The delegation toured Ontario's Legislative Building and received a briefing on the history and design of the Building which had been the meeting place for Ontario's parliament since 1893. The Romanesque Revival style of the Building is distinguished by rounded archways and heavy stonework.

Briefing by Mr Patrick Deutscher, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance and Chief Economist, Office of Economic Policy, Ontario Ministry of Finance

41. Mr Deutscher, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance of the Office of Economic Policy of the Ontario Ministry of Finance, gave the delegation a comprehensive presentation on the economy of Ontario, such as recent economic developments, the economic outlook for 2002 and 2003 and the fiscal situation.

42. The delegation was informed that sound economic fundamentals were helping Ontario weather current difficult conditions in the world economy. The prospects for healthy, long-run economic growth remained bright. Stronger US growth, lower interest rates, sharply lower energy prices, tax cuts and restored confidence would trigger an upturn in the Ontario economy in 2002. Mr Deutscher further advised that according to private-sector forecasts, Ontario's real Gross Domestic Product growth was expected to average at 1.3% in 2002 and accelerate to 4.4% in 2003.

21 February 2002 (Thursday)

Meeting with Mr G Douglas Valentine, Director, World Trade Centre Toronto, The Toronto Board of Trade

43. Founded in 1845, The Toronto Board of Trade is Canada's largest local chamber of commerce providing over 10,000 members with the tools to build their business success.

44. Mr G Douglas Valentine, Director of World Trade Centre Toronto of The Toronto Board of Trade, said that the Board created impact in the business community through public policy advocacy on issues affecting the business community in Toronto. Its World Trade Centre Toronto helped members to extend globally by providing them with international product and market data, import and export directories, trade statistics and country files through more than 305 World Trade Centres in 92 countries. Mr Valentine also informed the delegation that many Canadian manufacturers are interested in relocating their production operations to Mainland China.

45. Members of the delegation then discussed the following subjects with Mr Valentine:

- the transformation of Hong Kong from a base of light industry into a financial, trading and services centre;
- the impact of the Asian financial crisis on the Hong Kong economy;
- advantages of operating businesses in Hong Kong;
- the future of the Reminbi; and
- resolution of commercial disputes arising from operating businesses in Mainland China.

Visit to Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care

46. The delegation, guided by Dr Joseph WONG, Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, toured Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care. Dr WONG briefed the delegation on the nature and plans of the Yee Hong Foundation, and the history and services of Yee Hong Centre.

47. As the fund-raising arm of Yee Hong Centre, the Yee Hong Foundation maintains a mandate to provide leadership and vision in developing culturally and linguistically appropriate services for seniors of Chinese origin. Located on a 4.2-acre site in Scarborough, Yee Hong Centre was officially opened in October 1994 and is the first Chinese comprehensive geriatric care centre in Canada. It comprises a 155-bed nursing home for the incapacitated, a medical and rehabilitation centre and a seniors community centre, and has the longest waiting list of applicants in Canada for admission to its nursing home. It also includes a non-profit housing complex which featured 130 apartments and 26 townhouses for seniors. Its outreach services, such as food delivery and mobile medical services, has served thousands of Chinese Canadian seniors. The Centre has been described by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation as an impressive organization providing stellar care to elderly members of the Chinese population in Scarborough. The Yee Hong Foundation plans to open three new centres in areas with large Chinese populations in Toronto by 2003, so that the services would also be provided to non-Chinese seniors, particularly those of the South Asian, Filipino and Japanese communities.

48. After the tour-cum-briefing, the delegation attended a luncheon hosted by Dr WONG. The delegation was exceedingly impressed with the quality care and first-rate services being provided by Yee Hong Centre. Members were fully appreciative of the Yee Hong Foundation's commitment to address the health care needs of seniors in the Canadian Chinese community and to improve their quality of life.

Visit to the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto

49. Mr Stephen SIU, Executive Director of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, welcomed the delegation and gave a presentation on the objectives and activities of the Centre.

50. The Centre, which was opened in 1998, is a non-profit organization aiming at promoting Chinese culture, cultural harmony and international goodwill. It runs Chinese cultural courses, including Chinese calligraphy, Chinese painting, Chinese chess and Tai-chi. It often co-organizes activities with the HKETO in Toronto. The Centre has embarked on the second phase of its construction project which will include a multi-purpose theatre, a Chinese school and a Chinese theme garden.

Visit to the Canada-Hong Kong Resource Centre in the University of Toronto

51. The Canada-Hong Kong Resource Centre is a joint facility of the University of Toronto and York University, operating under the Canada and Hong Kong Project of the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies. The Resource Centre was initiated by Professors Diana Lary and Bernard LUK, Co-Directors of the Canada and Hong Kong Project. It was established in November 1994 with a set-up grant from the Hongkong Bank of Canada.

52. Professor LUK introduced to the delegation the history and collection of the Resource Centre. The Resource Centre contains the world's largest research collection for Hong Kong Studies outside Hong Kong. It is unique with its focus on developments in Hong Kong, Canada-Hong Kong relations and Hongkong-Canadian communities. It houses a large amount of materials not available elsewhere in North America, and enables researchers to embark on studies of Hong Kong-related topics without the expense and inconvenience of travelling across the Pacific. The Resource Centre offers an increasingly demanded service to university scholars as well as government, media, educational, professional and business researchers from the Greater Toronto Area and across North America.

53. The delegation considers that as Hong Kong is the place of origin of a great majority of Canadian Chinese and the largest single source of foreign students in Canada, it is important for Canadian scholars, media, business, government officials and educators to appreciate in depth Hong Kong's economic, social, political and cultural developments through resource centres such as that in the University of Toronto.

22 February 2002 (Friday)

Breakfast meeting with the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association

54. The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (HKCBA) is the largest bilateral trade association in Canada, with approximately 1,000 members in 10 sections in major cities across the country and has connections to 25 similar trade groups in 22 countries. Founded in 1984, the HKCBA is a private, non-profit organization for businesses and professionals, aiming to provide and foster an environment which facilitates and enhances bilateral trade between Canada and Hong Kong and through Hong Kong with China and South East Asia. It provides a forum for discussion of trade issues involving Hong Kong and Canada, through meetings, presentations, trade delegations and cultural exchanges.

55. The delegation was invited to a breakfast meeting with the Board of Directors of the Toronto Section of the HKCBA, including Ms Dorothy Jean Mar, President of the Toronto Section. During the meeting, the delegation and the HKCBA exchanged views on the following subjects:

- the role of Hong Kong as a trading and financial centre;
- changes in Hong Kong since 1997;
- environmental problems in Hong Kong;
- falling standard of English in Hong Kong;
- differences in business practices in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China; and
- Canadians' perception of Hong Kong.

Visit to the Toronto Offices of Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada

56. The delegation paid a brief visit to the Toronto Offices of the Hong Kong Tourism Board as well as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada, which are in the same premises.

57. Mrs Aliana HO, Director - Eastern USA, Canada and South America of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, gave the delegation a presentation on the work and activities of the Board in promoting Hong Kong's tourism. The delegation gained an appreciation of the market performance of 2001, the Board's marketing strategies and the market outlook of 2002.

58. Mr Andrew YUI, Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada, briefed the delegation on the role and work of the Council in promoting Hong Kong's trade with Canada. Mr YUI said that apart from organizing Canadian delegations to Hong Kong, the Council had been inviting Canadian buyers to Hong Kong stands in trade shows in the US. Moreover, the Council put much emphasis on encouraging Canadian small and medium-sized enterprises to team up with Hong Kong firms to tap the China market.

59. Members of the delegation expressed appreciation of the work of the Board and the Council and their contributions in promoting Hong Kong as a tourist destination for Canadian and US visitors and the best trading partner in Asia to the Canadian business community.

Visit to The Hospital for Sick Children and meeting with Dr Lap-Chee TSUI, Geneticist-in-Chief

60. The delegation visited The Hospital for Sick Children. During the visit, it received a briefing from Mr Malcolm Burrows, Director of Development and Gift Planning of the Hospital, on its history and major facilities.

61. The Hospital for Sick Children, which was established in 1875 and is affectionately known as Sick Kids, had become one of the world's largest paediatric academic health science centres. Sick Kids is a place where patient care, research and education play equal roles in improving the health of children. Every year, approximately 15,000 children stay at Sick Kids in close to 400 beds. Although it is a local hospital in Toronto, more than half of its patients come from outside the city, from other parts of Ontario and Canada, and from around the world.

62. On the education capabilities of Sick Kids, the delegation learnt that students from the University of Toronto and other local universities and colleges receive specialized training and practical experience from Sick Kids.

63. During the delegation's visit, Dr Lap-Chee TSUI, Geneticist-in-chief and Head of the Genetics and Genomic Biology Programme of The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute, guided members through the tour of the state-of-the-art facilities involved in conducting human genome research at Sick Kids. Dr TSUI, who was raised and educated in Hong Kong, is the leading genetic scientist in the world. He also briefly introduced his research work in Sick Kids.

64. The delegation is impressed with the mission and commitment of and the work done at Sick Kids in improving the health of children. Members are appreciative of its contribution in the field of paediatric health science.

Visit to Mon Sheong Centre

65. Mon Sheong Centre is operated by the Mon Sheong Foundation. The Foundation is the first Chinese charitable organization registered in Ontario, dedicated to the promotion of Chinese culture, heritage, language and philosophy through the provision of a range of programmes and services primarily for the elderly and young members of the Canadian Chinese community.

66. The delegation received a briefing on the work of the Foundation by its staff. Members were informed that the Foundation operated three Chinese schools and a youth group. Mon Sheong Centre houses a Home for the Aged and provides a venue for organizing recreational activities for the elderly as well as youth activities.

67. During the visit, the delegation had a dialogue with about 16 members of the Mong Sheong Youth Group. They comprised Canadian Chinese students attending schools and universities in Toronto. In response to the enquiries from members of the Youth Group, the delegation advised them of recent changes in Hong Kong's education system and the opportunities for Canadian Chinese seeking employment in Hong Kong.

68. Relevant papers and materials presented to the delegation are listed in **Appendix II**. A set of the papers and the materials will be placed in the Library of the Legislative Council for Members' perusal on request.

IV. Conclusion

69. Members of the delegation consider that the visit to Canada has been very successful in reinforcing links with Canada, keeping the Canadian community abreast of the latest developments in Hong Kong, and fostering better mutual understanding. Members are particularly delighted to note the continuing interest in Hong Kong affairs expressed by the various parliamentarians as well as community and business leaders.

70. The delegation has also been enlightened through the exchanges with the officials of various government ministries and departments and representatives of different organizations. Members are particularly impressed by the all-round approach adopted by the Canadian Government in achieving sustainable development, protecting the environment and enhancing the quality of life for Canadians. Although some of the Canadian experience may not be directly relevant or readily transferable to Hong Kong, Members feel that it will provide useful reference for Hong Kong in shaping our future development.

V. Acknowledgements

71. The delegation wishes to record its appreciation of the HKETO in Toronto for putting together a substantial, useful and informative visit programme, and the Canadian Consulate-General for facilitating the visit.

72. Members are particularly grateful to Mrs Rosanna Ure and Mr Kenneth CHENG, who accompanied the delegation and rendered very efficient assistance to them throughout the visit.

73. Above all, the delegation would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all the parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of public and private organizations for sparing their time to meet the delegation and providing them with useful information and briefings on a wide range of subjects.

Visit Programme in Ottawa

16 February 2002 (Saturday)

22:15 Arrive in Ottawa by AC 3138
[check in The Westin Hotel, 11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa,
Ontario KIN 9H4]

17 February 2002 (Sunday)

Free

18 February 2002 (Monday)

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast hosted by Director, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Toronto
The Daly Restaurant, The Westin Hotel

9:15 - 10:00 Briefing by The Conference Board of Canada
255 Smyth Road, Ottawa, ON K1H 8M7

10:30 - 12:00 Briefing by Environment Canada
Room 2419, Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere, 10 Wellington Street,
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3

12:15 - 13:30 Lunch

14:00 - 14:30 Courtesy call on Mr Bob Chiarelli, Mayor of Ottawa
Mayor's Boardroom, City Hall, 111 Lisgar Street

15:15 - 16:00 Meeting with Ms Nancy Hughes Anthony, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Delta Office Tower, 350 Sparks Street, Suite 501, Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7S8

16:15 - 16:45 Tour around Parliament Hill

17:00 - 19:00 Reception held by the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group
Room 371, West Block, Parliament Hill

19 February 2002 (Tuesday)

- 9:00 - 10:15** **Briefing by Health Canada**
Health Protection Building, Holland Avenue
- 11:00 - 12:00** **Meeting with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology**
Room 308, West Block, Parliament Hill
- 12:00 - 13:15** **Luncheon meeting with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development**
Room 601, Centre Block, Parliament Hill
- 13:30 - 14:30** **Meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**
Conference Room A5-500, Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario KIA OG2
- 15:00 - 16:00** **Briefing by Industry Canada**
11th Floor, Executive Complex, 235 Queen Street, Ottawa
- 18:00 Depart Ottawa for Toronto by AC 463
- 19:06 Arrive in Toronto
- 20:30 Check in Hotel Inter-Continental, 220 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1T8

Visit Programme in Toronto

20 February 2002 (Wednesday)

- 9:00 - 10:00** **Visit to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto**
174 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2M7
- 10:30 - 11:15** **Tour of the City Hall**
100 Queen Street West
- 11:15 - 12:15** **Meeting with Councillor Mike Feldman, Chair of Economic Development and Parks Committee, Toronto City Council**
Meeting Room A, City Hall
- 12:30 - 14:00** **Lunch with the Presidents of the five major Chinese business associations of Greater Toronto**
Dynasty Chinese Restaurant, 2nd Floor, 131 Bloor Street West, Toronto
- 14:30 - 15:30** **Tour of Ontario's Legislative Building**
- 16:00 - 16:45** **Briefing by Ontario Ministry of Finance**
Boardroom, 6th Floor, Frost Building North, 95 Grosvenor Street, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1Z1
- 18:00 - 18:30** **Interview by CHIN Sing Tao Chinese Radio**
46-48 Power Street, Toronto ON M5A 3A6

21 February 2002 (Thursday)

- 9:30 - 10:15** **Meeting with Mr G Douglas Valentine, Director, World Trade Centre Toronto, The Toronto Board of Trade**
3rd Floor, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto, Ontario M5X 1C1
- 10:45 - 12:00** **Visit to Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care (including briefing by Dr Joseph WONG, Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation)**
2319 McNicoll Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1V 5L2
- 12:15 - 13:45** **Luncheon hosted by Dr Joseph WONG, Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation**
Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, 2319 McNicoll Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1V 5L2
- 14:15 - 15:00** **Visit to the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto**
5183 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 5Z5

16:00 - 17:00 **Visit to the Canada-Hong Kong Resource Centre in the University of Toronto**
Munk Centre for International Studies, Room 006N, 1 Devonshire Place, Toronto, Ontario

22 February 2002 (Friday)

8:30 - 9:15 **Breakfast meeting with The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association**
Hong Kong Trade and Economic Office, 174 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2M7

9:30 - 10:30 **Visit to the Toronto Offices of the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Canada (in the same building)**
9 Temperance Street, Toronto, Ontario M5H 1Y6

10:30 - 12:30 Free time and lunch

12:50 - 14:15 **Visit to The Hospital for Sick Children (including meeting with Dr Lap-Chee TSUI, Geneticist-in-Chief and Head, Genetics and Genomic Biology Programme)**
170 Elizabeth Street, Toronto, Ontario

14:30 - 15:45 **Visit to Mon Sheong Centre (including dialogue with the Mon Sheong Youth Group)**
26 D'Arcy Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1J7

15:45 - 16:00 **End-of- trip press conference**
Mon Sheong Centre, 26 D'Arcy Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1J7

20:55 Depart Toronto for Hong Kong by CX 829

Appendix II

Papers and Materials Presented to the Delegation

1. The Conference Board of Canada Annual Report 2001
2. A Guide to the new *Canadian Environment Protection Act*
March 2000
3. Selected Publications & Websites
Environment Canada
Year 2000
4. Part One Report of the Walkerton Inquiry: The Events of May 2000 and
Related Issues
Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General
5. Canada Health Action: Building on the Legacy
The Final Report of the National Forum on Health
6. Rethinking our Borders: A Plan for Action
Coalition for Secure & Trade-Efficient Borders
December 3, 2001
7. Hong Kong Update
Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office - Toronto
December 2001 Issue
8. The Legislative Assembly of Ontario
9. Ontario Fact Sheet
Ontario Ministry of Finance
January 24, 2002
10. Discover The Hong Kong-Canada Business Association Advantage
11. The Hospital for Sick Children Annual Report 2000-2001
12. Mon Sheong Foundation 2000-2001 Annual Report