



May Newsletter

Liberal Party of South-Surrey White Rock

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH



Liberal Candidate for South Surrey - White Rock

A NOTE FROM GORDIE

There isn't a neighborhood in South Surrey or White Rock I haven't visited, and every time I'm out in our community I take pride in the diversity. I'm also reminded that this didn't happen by itself. The Liberal Party's leadership on multiculturalism has been generations in the making. Fifty years ago, in 1971, Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau declared multiculturalism official government policy. Decades later, in 2002, Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien, designated May as Asian Heritage Month. More recently, in 2016 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau formally apologized for the 1914 Komagata Maru incident. All of these actions reflect the Liberal Party's steadfast commitment to Canada's unique cultural diversity. Our community is a wonderful example of a genuine cultural mosaic, and all of us are all the richer for it.

Gordie Hogg

Liberal Party of Canada Candidate, South Surrey-White Rock

Looking for ways to celebrate Asian Heritage Month in our community? Check these out!

Encounters

Asian Fusion

2021

The alley in the rain, Jaylene Qin

May 4 to May 27

Semiahmoo Arts is proud to present the exhibition, **Encounters - Asian Fusion**, as part of the Interconnect project, organized by **explorASIAN Festival**. In celebration of Asian Heritage Month, we will showcase artists from the White Rock/ South Surrey area to present artwork around the theme of Pan-Asian heritage and art.

Happy 50th birthday. Multiculturalism!

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms and why multiculturalism matters

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Asian Heritage Month

An opportunity to learn more about the history of Canadians of Asian descent and to celebrate their contributions to the growth and prosperity of Canada.

The Origins of Asian Heritage Month

In May 2002, Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien designated May Asian Heritage Month.

"Over the last two centuries, immigrants have journeyed to Canada from East Asia, Southern Asia, Western, Central and Southeast Asia, bringing our society a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities and religious traditions.

The people of this diverse, vibrant and growing community have contributed to every aspect of life in Canada – from the arts and science to sport, business, and government.

Asian Heritage Month offers all Canadians an opportunity to learn more about the history of Canadians of Asian descent and to celebrate their contributions to the growth and prosperity of Canada".



The Komagata Maru Incident

In April 1914, 376 passengers of Sikh, Hindu and Muslim origin arrived in Vancouver aboard the Komagata Maru. As a result of "exclusion laws" designed to limit Asian immigration, only 24 people were permitted to enter Canada and the ship was forced to return to India, where attempts to arrest leaders of the group resulted in rioting and numerous deaths.

In 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau formally apologized for the incident:

"to the victims of the incident, no words can erase the pain and suffering they experienced... Regrettably, the passage of time means that none are alive to hear our apology today, still, we offer it, fully and sincerely"



During this celebration of multiculturalism, diversity and inclusivity, I want to denounce anti-Asian hate crimes in the strongest possible terms. Racism has no place in Canada, and it will never find a home in our community.

Gordie

Multiculturalism:

The Liberal Party's longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusivity

The Origins of Multiculturalism

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Canada's adoption of multiculturalism as government policy. In 1971, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau shared the Party's vision of diversity:

There is no such thing as a model or ideal Canadian. A society which emphasizes uniformity is one which creates intolerance and hate... What the world should be seeking, and what in Canada we must continue to cherish, are not concepts of uniformity but human values: compassion, love, and understanding.

In 1982, the Liberal Party championed the creation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and ensured that it was enshrined in our Constitution. The Charter affirms multiculturalism and prohibits discrimination on the basis of colour, religion, sex, age and disability.

More recent commitments to diversity

The Liberal Party's commitment to diversity is evident in action, not just words. From the Department of Heritage's anti-racism and multiculturalism programs to Budget 2021, the party provides funding to combat discrimination and foster equitable opportunities to participate fully in Canadian society.

In Budget 2021, the Party committed \$300 million to initiatives like the Black Entrepreneurship Program and the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy to support women, Black Canadians, and other underrepresented entrepreneurs who face barriers to launching and owning businesses.



The Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Provision 15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.



LIBERAL SPOTLIGHT: BO LONG

Why Am I a Liberal?

I grew up in Hunan, China. My parents were both doctors. Growing up, I remember our living room was never empty. There were always people looking for help, even after 10PM. My parents never turned them away. They tell me that some of these people walked 50km from their villages to get help, and it was wrong to shut our doors. Sometimes our visitors could not pay, and would quietly leave some eggs at the door. I grew up sick and tired of eggs. But also, I learned the value of community and compassion.

I joined the Liberal Party because it is the party of community and compassion. After immigrating to Canada in 2005 with my children, I was helped by many along my way. I wanted to give back. I joined the Liberals in 2013 because it offers solutions to help middle class families, address climate change, and support science. I enjoy talking about community issues with Chinese Canadians. I believe we have to find ways to get involved in the Canadian political process. To learn, and to push for change. I am also one of the 50 women of Options, and I am a member of Peace Arch Hospital Auxiliary's Phoenix Group. This is a group I helped to found with other Chinese Canadian women in this community. Even though we are worlds apart, my parents' lessons stayed with me. Cherish your community, and never shut your doors on anyone.

From a celebration of multiculturalism to a celebration of Mother's Day!



Happy Mother's Day!

A salute to mothers and
all the amazing women
who are the bedrock of
our lives, our families,
and our communities!

This year, women all
across Canada have
special cause for
celebration...

So what makes 2021 so special?

On April 19, Canada's first female Minister of Finance tabled a historic budget designed to change the lives of women across Canada.

"By investing in Canadians and taking action to break down barriers to full economic participation, we can ensure that our economy comes roaring back, and that Canada's recovery leaves no one behind."

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland

The Liberal Party knows that the lack of affordable childcare is not a social issue. It's an economic issue that has driven an unprecedented number of women out of the labour force during COVID. That's why the Party is taking action with funding of \$30 billion for a nation-wide childcare program. Investing in affordable childcare is an investment in economic development and equitable opportunities for women that benefits everyone.



The new national childcare program is just one plank in a platform of commitments to women and their families. To learn more, go to www.liberal.ca/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience. South Surrey-White Rock Federal Liberal Association, www.sswrliberals.ca

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the Zoom Interview with
LaVerne Hogg for our Mother's Day Spotlight



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Liberals Party of Canada
in South Surrey - White Rock

SSWR Young Liberals

Gordie Hogg

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ELECTION READINESS

What Can You Do To Help?



JOIN US!

The Electoral District
Association (EDA) is
always looking for more
volunteers.

If you are interested, come
to our next online meeting.

For info email:

deborahsalh@gmail.com