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Premier holds town hall meeting in Richmond

by Martin van den Hemel

Staff Reporter

B.C. Premier Christy Clark fulfilled an election promise and hosted a town hall meeting at Aberdeen Centre Tuesday.

In front of an audience of more than 120 people in the mall's food fair, Clark fielded questions about restoring gaming funding to multicultural groups and charities and suggested that the province's education curriculum should be altered to reflect the strong Asian flavour of the province.

She questioned why in schools children learn mainly about the country's European history and said that students should be taught about Asian history as well.

"The thing we need to remember is the work you do in helping people integrate into the community, helping us all understand each other. It's really important work," Clark said when posed a question by Henry Beh, executive director of the Richmond Chinese Community Society.

"I think we should work harder to make sure that every British Columbian, when they go to school, learns the history, not just of Europe, but the history of Asia and India and places to the east of Canada which is so much a part of who we are. Instead, our children learn about Europe.

"I think we need to change our curriculum in schools, have more access to the Cantonese and Mandarin language, have more access to Asian history so that every child when they graduate from high school, understands every other child's cultural background."



Martin van den Hemel photo
Premier Christy Clark was in Richmond Tuesday.