

SUBJECTS
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BLANKETS AND SMILES BRING WARMTH TO NEEDY

Precilia Kong's Ignite the Warmth helps people who are most in need

President and co-founder of Ignite the Warmth, Richmond's Precilia Kong (middle)—with treasurer Ricky Guan (left) manager Melissa Mah (right)—is looking forward to distributing blankets to those less fortunate this Christmas seas

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Photo by Paul Tam

MLA John Yap, MP Alice Wong and Coun. Bill McNulty helped launch a new Chinese journey photo exhibit at Aberdeen Centre.

Aberdeen Centre photo exhibit told Chinese journey

By **DON FENNELL**
@DFSentinel

Explore the Chinese Journey Through Canadian History Photo Exhibition wrapped up Dec. 6 at Aberdeen Centre.

The exhibit took participants back to Vancouver's Chinatown in the late 1800s, and on a journey past major milestones in the community's history.

Presented in partnership with the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver, the exhibit was displayed along the third floor hallway during mall hours.

Contributors to the exhibition included the Chinese Benevolent Association, Vancouver Public Library, City of Vancouver Archives, *Sing Tao* and *Ming Pao* Chinese language newspapers.

Founded in 1895 by six pioneers who saw a need to establish an organization to provide mutual support and leadership within the Chinese Canadian community, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver has worked diligently to promote equality for Chinese

Canadians and to foster better understanding with other community groups.

Registered as a non-profit organization in 1906, the group has played an important role in the Chinese community appealing for equal rights, and organizing multi-cultural events such as Chinatown Spring Festival Parade, Canada Day celebrations and the Canada Memory Day ceremony. Past efforts have included distributing food to unemployed Chinese Canadians in 1913, a plea to review Canada's immigration laws in 1924, appealing to grant Chinese Canadians the right to vote in 1947, and numerous petitions between 1947 and 1967 to facilitate the reunification of Chinese Canadian families.

In the last three decades, the Chinese Benevolent Association has continued to focus on the changing needs of its community, including creating an affiliated non-profit society to provide low cost housing, and frequent fundraising campaigns to assist the victims of natural disasters in Canada and China.

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