

The Calgary Chinese Schools

September 24, 2009

By Paul K.P. Wong

Education is a serious subject in Chinese families. Most parents pay a great deal of concentration to their children's future, most of them believe that if their kids get a higher education, they will have a better life in the future; it became a significant tradition, since Confucius opened the door for public learning. Before him, the education was provided to the royal and noble families only.

The root and heritage

Today, oversea Chinese people want to maintain their tradition and roots; therefore, they would like to set up the Chinese schools for their children/descendant to learn the heritage.

First Chinese school in Town

In the early days, there was no Chinese school in Calgary Chinatown, until the Calgary Chinese Public School was founded in 1939. At the beginning, there were only a few native born Chinese children that learn their own language on weekends or leisure time, and the teachers used the Taishan and Cantonese dialects. After May 14, 1947, when the Canadian government repealed the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, and on June 15, 1947, the laws limiting Asian immigration to Canada are also repealed, and Asian Canadians with descent are allowed to vote in federal elections. For those Chinese people who were living in the county, started to apply their families come to Canada again. Since then, more Chinese immigrants come to Calgary, the number of students and teachers in the Chinese public school were kept growing. In 1975, the Calgary Chinese School was established; it was the first institute that was using Mandarin to teach their students.

The Development of Chinese Schools in Calgary

Since 1972, the Canadian government approved and implemented the Multiculturalism Act to ensure the multiculturalism has been carrying out in government policy and program at federal and provincial level are not against any ethnic groups. Starting from there, more and more multi-linguistic institutes were found across the country. Starting from 1978, when Vietnam Chinese immigrants moved into Calgary, they would like to keep the learning trend to grow here as in the homeland, and use Mandarin and Vietnamese to teach their children. In 1992, the second tide was developed of the Chinese schools, after more Chinese people moved into the city from Hong Kong, additional Cantonese schools were found. In the present, the third trend of the Chinese schools is that there has further Mandarin (Pu-tong-hua) speaking schools are created, due to extra Chinese people are coming from mainland China.

List of the Chinese language institutes

Below is the list of the Chinese language institutes founded in Calgary since 1939:

<u>Established Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
1939	Calgary Chinese Public School.
1975	Calgary Chinese School.
1980	Calgary Chinese Alliance School.
1983, July	Calgary Chi Thanh Chinese School
1991	Chinese Heritage Language Society of Canada.
1993	Calgary Cultural Centre Chinese Learning Academy.
1993	Chinese Cultural Society School.
1997	Alberta Chung Wah Chinese School.
1997, February	The Chinese Academy.
1997	Yu Feng Chinese School.
2007, March	Calgary Senior College.
2009, February	Calgary Christian Bearspaw School (CSL).
N/A	Cantonese Chinese School of Calgary
N/A	Wah Ying Chinese School.

=====