

# The BRIDGE

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RICHMOND HILL & MARKHAM CHINESE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
烈治文山市·萬錦市華商會

## Year of Ox comes with bull market – Prime Minister

The Year of Ox comes amid economic hardship, but the Prime Minister Stephen Harper believes that the hard-working and determine characteristic of the ox will serve Canada well. He is optimistic that the Year of Ox will also mean the return of the bull market.

Mr. Harper joined about 700 other guests at the 12th Annual Chinese New Year Gala of the Confederation of Greater Toronto Chinese Business Associations to celebrate the coming of the year of Ox. "Canadians of all backgrounds increasingly share in these celebrations in the spirit of renewal and in the promise of good health and good fortune for the year ahead," said Mr. Harper.

He then turned to the economic health of the country, understanding that investors had lost a lot of earnings in the financial turmoil. "Obviously the bull will come charging back eventually," he said, "but in the meantime the ox will serve us well: patient, hard-working, calm, tenacious, and resolute."

"These are the kind of characteristics we need right now. Fortunately they are characteristics Canadians have in abundance, and they have seen us through many difficult times in the past," said Mr. Harper.

Mr. Harper is particularly grateful to the Chinese Canadian. "As one of Canada's oldest and largest immigrant communities, Chinese Canadians have made, and continue to make, enormous contributions to our country in every field of human endeavour," he said.

農曆十二生肖中最勤奮工作的牛，於一片經濟不景氣之中來臨。不過總理哈珀相信，牛的勤奮堅忍特性，將有助加國渡今次難關，更樂觀祝願牛市重臨多市。

總理哈珀應邀出席大多倫多華商總會一年一度的農曆新年慶祝晚宴。他以牛的堅忍、沉實、冷靜及決斷的特性，來比喻加國人的優點，強調加國人過往以此特性克服困難，今次亦不例外。

總理亦讚揚華人對加國的貢獻，默默為社會作出貢獻的同時，亦積極在加國民主政制中表達自己。這包括首位華裔國會議員鄭天華，而現任華裔國會議員黃陳小玲出任多元文化國務部長，另外還有麥鼎雄及莊文浩，均能將華人聲音帶進國會。三級國會議員及中港兩地政府的代表，均出席這晚盛會。

惟安省省長麥堅迪因事務繁忙，未能親臨共慶，只能由內閣部長之一的菲臘斯代表他上台致賀詞，祝願牛年康泰順景。

今年的大多倫多華商總會年度晚宴娛樂節目尤為豐富。萬錦市長薛家平更加高歌一曲《上海灘》，並由烈治文山市長巴路在旁

伴舞。兩人的精采演出，除贏得全場熱烈讚嘆掌聲外，更為多福醫院籌得二千元善款。

He listed the prominent Chinese voices in the parliament like the first Chinese Member of Parliament Mr. Douglas Jung, the current Parliamentary Secretary to Multiculturalism Mrs. Alice Wong, and other Chinese Members of Parliament Inky Mark and Michael Chong.

The busy schedule of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty kept him from participating this gala. His cabinet member Hon. Gerry Phillips extended his warm greetings on his behalf, wishing for a healthy, happy and prosperous Year of the Ox.

The annual gala was jointly organized by the four Chinese Business Associations in the GTA area. They include Richmond Hill & Markham; Mississauga; Scarborough York Region; and Toronto. Guests of honour of the night included Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, Municipal Councillors, and representatives of Chinese Government and Hong Kong Government.

It featured a night of great entertainment by the great performances of Mayor of Markham Frank Scarpitti and Mayor of Richmond Hill Dave Barrow. Mayor Scarpitti's canto-pop singing and Mayor Barrow's dancing had helped raise \$2000 for the Markham-Stouffville Hospital.

The guests were also delighted to see the traditional Chinese face-changing opera and the ballroom dancing performances. It was also a great night for the guests to network and exchange well wishes with each other.

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper was greeted by the 4 Presidents of the member associations of Confederation, namely (from left) Ms. Benny Cheung (Toronto), Mr. Ben Leung (Richmond Hill & Markham), Mr. Stephen Chu (Mississauga), and Mr. Alpha Lai (Scarborough York Region). 總理哈珀(中)參加華商總會晚宴，受到四位華商會的會長歡迎，左起：張小蕙(多倫多)，梁萬邦(烈治文山市·萬錦市)，朱洪恩(密西沙加)及黎建輝(士嘉堡約克區)。

## Message from the President

### Kung Hey Fat Choy! Happy Nu Year

I offer my best wishes and warmest greeting to our members and friends on behalf of our Board during these tough economic times. The year 2009 is a year of challenges and opportunities. As a prominent business association in the region, we had carried out our duties to act on the interest of our members by presenting our views about the current economic condition to our government via all possible channels. We participated in an economic forum jointly organized by the sister Chinese Business Associations and Ming Pao Daily in December 2008. We drafted and delivered an economic position paper (details in following page) to our local Members of Parliaments and the Federal Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, reflecting our views and suggestions before the release of the Federal Budget in late January. Then in February, we had a chance to meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper and express to him directly of our concerns.

In my message to Mr. Harper and the Federal Government, I emphasized that, "there are over a million of Chinese immigrants living in Canada. With them are the multimillion dollars businesses in their hometowns. Promoting

### 恭喜發財 牛年快樂

謹代表理事會恭祝大家事事順境。牛年經濟不景，但充滿機遇。作為區內主要商會之一，本會切實履行商會責任，向政府反映商界的意見及關心之議題。本會參加了經濟論壇，又草擬立場書，呈交區內國會議員及聯邦財政部長費萊厄蒂。並於二月總理哈珀親臨多市時，直接向他反映意見。

加國華裔移民愈百萬人，他們與家鄉的聯繫能為加國帶來無限商機。加強中加貿易將對加國經濟有利。過去聯邦及省級的訪華團，均帶來豐碩成果，現華商總會正籌備一次訪華團，希望組織大多市地區的市長們，於2010年上海世界博覽會時訪問中國，再創商機。

Canada trade with China will definitely benefit to our members and the Canadian economy. Past federal or provincial China trade missions had proven to be very fruitful. To continue this successful path, we are arranging a business delegation consisting of the mayors of Greater Toronto Area to China during the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai."

Economy is a cycle that has its ups and downs. Positive thinking will keep our mind sharp and keeps us financially healthy. Meeting with professionals and joining our members networking events will bring in new ideas and opportunities to preserve your wealth and market. Tax time is approaching. Consult your tax experts or financial advisors for effective tax planning. This could help your cash flows. We have experienced accountants, lawyers, bankers, financial advisors and real estate experts in our association.

Tomorrow will be brighter and better.

**Benedict Leung CA**  
President of RHMBCA

經濟循環中有起有跌，只要保持積極態度，對身心財富有益。際此稅務季節，與稅務專家或財務專家聯絡，做好財務計劃。本會有多方面專家如律師、銀行家、會計師、財務及地產顧問，能提供協助。

明天會更好

**梁萬邦 特許會計師**  
烈治文山市·萬錦市華商會會長



Ben Leung spoke at an economic forum on the ways to cope with tough times.



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## Position Paper on current economic climate

During the federal budget consultation period in January, RHMBCA special committee on economic situation convened meetings and submitted proposals to the Federal Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, and the Members of Parliament of the ridings of Markham and Richmond Hill.

Key points of the proposals include:

- Offer conditional bailout of the auto industry, tie the conditions to production of energy efficient innovations or alternative energy options, and the bailout should be a loan and not a grant;
- Use the persuasive leverage of the Federal Government to make Canada's financial institutions loosen its grip on granting of credits to small and medium enterprises;
- Establish and maintain strong and comprehensive relationship with China;
- Broaden the international trading market beyond the United States, grants for export market promotion;

本會因應目前經濟環境向聯邦政府提交一份立場書，提出以下重點建議：

- 有條件地提供財政援助予汽車製造業，而有關款項必須是貸款，不是資助
- 運用聯邦政府的說服力使銀行放鬆銀根，協助中小型企業
- 與中國保持良好而全面的關係

- Increase landing of the entrepreneurial class of immigrants, and cooperate with professional groups to evaluate foreign credentials before landing of professional immigrants;
- Accelerate the granting of business and visiting visas to people of the Asia Pacific Region, tourism is important in stimulating the transportation, hospitality and service sectors;
- Expand the Small Business Investment Loan Program, credit worthiness and historical experience rules for this loan;
- Ensure the tax benefits to small businesses will not be negated by provincial or municipal taxation burdens;
- Exempt the small and medium enterprises from the strict provincial requirements of minimum wages;
- Avoid raising municipal taxes of doing business in the Town of Richmond Hill and Markham

- 擴大美國以外的國際貿易市場，資助出口推廣活動
- 加快企業移民移居加國，確保專業移民抵步前資歷獲得認可
- 加快審批旅遊及商務簽證，刺激本地旅遊業
- 加強中小企投資貸款計劃，承認中小企的價值及經驗
- 確保中小企的稅務優惠不被省或地方政府的稅項抵銷
- 豁免中小企遵守省府嚴苛的最低工資規定
- 烈治文山及萬錦市政府避免加重商界稅務負擔

*Councillor David Cohen* invites you to enjoy many of the upcoming performances at the new Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Please call the box office at 905-787-8811 for more information.



## Helping small businesses



Federal Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism Diane Ablonczy (3rd from left) hosted a roundtable meeting with the business communities of different ethnic groups in the Greater Toronto Area, explaining how the federal economic stimulus plan can help the small businesses. RHMBCA's founding president and director CS Leung (right) was representing the Chinese business. The plan included enhancing small business financing program, lowering tax burdens and reducing red tape.

聯邦政府小企業及旅遊國務部長 Diane Ablonczy (左三) 與多個少數族裔的商界代表會晤，介紹聯邦政府協助小型企業的計劃，包括擴大對小型企業的融資計劃、減稅及簡化公文程序等。本會創會會長兼理事梁中心 (右) 代表華商出席會議。

## Gallery

### Confederation Gala on February 7, 2009



Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow (left) danced while Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti was singing.



Mayor Scarpitti helped raise \$2000 for Markham Stouffville Hospital.



Face-changing opera performance



Ballroom and Latin dance performance

### Chinese New Year Celebration and Networking on February 3, 2009



Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow spoke to guests



Richmond Hill Councillor David Cohen was the God of Fortune for the night



York Regional Chair Bill Fisch and York Regional Councillor Vito Spatafora wish a wealthy Year of Ox.



Michelle Chu and other Board members sang a Chinese New Year song.

### Chinese New Year greetings to retailers



York Regional Police Inspector John Burnese distributed red pockets to retailer.



The Board of RHMBCA wished retailers a prosperous Year of Ox.



### Sponsoring OCDA



RHMBCA is the sponsor of the annual Chinese Debate competition of Ontario universities, winner of Best Debater (second from right) accept trophy from the Board.



The winning team from University of Toronto with the advisors of OCDA.

For more event photos, please visit [www.rhmcba.ca](http://www.rhmcba.ca)

## Membership Benefits 會員福利

### Merchant account discount rate

RHMCBA is negotiating with Global Payments Canada GP for a special discount rate to all members of RHMCBA. This will reduce the cost of accepting credit card or debit card payments by over at least 20%. The new arrangement will encourage more retailers or service providers to accept credit card, which is a safe and secure way of collecting payments. Members will receive notice from RHMCBA after the agreement is reached.

本會正與結賬公司Global Payments談判商戶信用卡及銀行卡手續費的折扣安排，新安排將能替商戶節省兩成或以上的手續費，這將能鼓勵更多商戶接受這類電子付款方法，既安全又可靠。有關安排細節達成協議後，本會將立即通知會員申請加入新安排。

### Mercedes-Benz discount

Mercedes-Benz Canada has reached an agreement with RHMCBA to provide fleet rate for RHMCBA's members. Our members will get a discount of \$500 to \$1500 when they purchase selected vehicles from any Mercedes-Benz dealer. The saving is on top of the best negotiated price between you and the dealers. All you need to do is to visit the dealers, pick a dream car and show your RHMCBA membership card to the dealer, then the dream car will be yours in

a discounted rate. For more details, please contact Kit Wong at 416-989-8893 or email him at [wongk@mercedes-benz.ca](mailto:wongk@mercedes-benz.ca)

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## Events Calendar 活動表

**RHMCBA events 烈治文山市 ▪ 萬錦市華商會活動:** (For enquiries please call 905-731 8806 or email to: info@rhmcba.ca)

**March 31st, Tuesday**

Monthly members networking 每月會員聚會  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Diamond Banquet Hall 鑽石喜宴酒家  
Fee: \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members.

**April 28th, Tuesday**

Monthly members networking 每月會員聚會  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Diamond Banquet Hall 鑽石喜宴酒家  
Fee: \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members.

**May 26th, Tuesday**

Monthly members networking 每月會員聚會  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: To be advised  
Fee: \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members.

**June 30th, Tuesday**

Monthly members networking 每月會員聚會  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: To be advised  
Fee: \$25 for members; \$35 for non-members.

**Markham Small Business Enterprise Centre events 萬錦市小企業中心活動:** (for registration, please visit: www.msbec.markham.ca)

**March 31st, Tuesday**

Art Entrepreneurship seminar –  
Turn your passion into profits  
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Place: Alcatel-Lucent Bldg, 1380 Rodick Rd., Markham  
Fee: \$15

**April 7th, Tuesday**

Monthly Small Business networking  
"Why goal setting does not work, and how to get results"  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Markham Executive Office, 3601 Hwy 7 East, Suite 400, Markham  
Fee: \$10

**Richmond Hill Small Business Enterprise Centre events 烈治文山小企業中心活動:** (for registration, please call 905-771 2546 or ecdev@richmondhill.ca)

**April 8th, Wednesday**

New Importer Seminar  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Place: Town of Richmond Hill Council Chambers  
225 East Beaver Creek Rd, 1/F, Richmond Hill  
Fee: Free

Place: Richmond Hill Public Library  
1 Atkinson St, Meeting Room B, Richmond Hill  
Fee: \$35

**April 21st, Tuesday**

Preparing Your Business Plan seminar  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**May 14th, Thursday**

Marketing seminar – Strategies to grow or expand business  
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Place: Town of Richmond Hill Council Chambers  
225 East Beaver Creek Rd, 1/F, Richmond Hill  
Fee: Free

## Welcoming New Members 歡迎新會員

A. Cheung Consulting Co.	Alan Cheung	Professional Corporation	Sherry Wan
Achievex Financial Corp.	Stanley Yau	North America Décor Neon Inc.	Phil Zhang Li Tao Lu
Dr. Edward Lam & Associates	Dr. Edward Lam Dr. Selay Lam Simone Lam	One Chocolate Corporation – Fraktals Chocolate	Ingrid Kulbach
Globox Business Centre	Pancy Pong Amanda Wang	Oskar Management Ltd.	Stanley Hung
Hilton Suites Toronto/Markham Hotel & Conference Centre	Vincci Chung Partick Regina Jennifer Chiappetta	R & E Digital Production	David Huang
HSBC Asset Management	Tommy Yuk	Raymond James Financial	Scott Ford
Kenny Wan Charter Accountant	Kenny Wan	TD Waterhouse Private Investment Advice	James Leung
		Torche Financial Group	Alan Tse
		York Regional Councillor	Vito Spatafora



Kenny Wan Stanley Hung Stanley Yau Thomas Yuk



Annie Chan Phil Zhang Scott Ford Vito Spatafora



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