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**CONFUCIUS  
INSTITUTE**  
IN EDMONTON

**通讯**

(Tōngxùn- newsletter)

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

05/06/2016  
issue 01



**CIE Dance Team Performing at the 2016 Graduation Ceremony of Chinese Culture and Language Classes**

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## 2016 Alberta Chinese Bridge Competition for School Students:

### A Great Learning Experience in Chinese Language and Culture

May 28, 2016 at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and Dovercourt School

#### Registration

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### CIE Visit from U of A

A delegation of 36 people from the University of Alberta paid a visit to Confucius Institute in Edmonton on April 20, 20, 2016. The guests were mostly administrators from 35 different universities across China. They are in Edmonton for a special global administration training program offered by the University of Alberta.

The delegation was very interested in the Confucius Institute initiative, as they had much about it in China. They also were interested to learn about the Edmonton Chinese bilingual program.



### 2016 Graduation for Chinese Culture and Language Classes

On April 28, the CIE hosted the 2016 Graduation Ceremony for Chinese Culture and Language Classes at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. Close to one hundred students, family members and friends attended the ceremony.

The delegation spent a morning touring the facilities of the CIE and received a presentation introducing the work of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. Dr. Liu also explained the operation and design of the Chinese bilingual program. A good discussion followed. Many of the delegates expressed appreciation following the session, as it helped them better understand the work of a CI.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited Meyonohk School. The principal gave a brief introduction about the history of the Chinese bilingual program and also provided the opportunities for the delegation to visit some classrooms, dividing into three groups. During the recess period, the delegates talked to teachers, asking many questions about the program. All were so impressed about the Chinese language program at Meyonohk School.

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During the evening, the students had the opportunities to show what they have learned in their classes. Language students performed a variety of presentations including singing, drama, skits and poem recitals. The students from cultural classes provided performances which included a Yang Qin ensemble, Erhu ensemble, and Guzhen ensemble. Although some students had only recently commended learning the instruments, they did an excellent job. The second last performance was a Chinese dance by the CIE dance class. Most of the dancers are teachers from the Edmonton schools. Their beautiful performance won significant applause from the audience. The dance teacher, Du Jinjin, concluded the evening with a performance of the Xingjiang Fold Dance, a perfect closure for the evening.

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## Visit from MacEwan University

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a group of students from MacEwan University visited Confucius Institute in Edmonton. These students are studying business management at the Business School and will soon participate in a China Study Tour, visiting Beijing and Shanghai. Before they depart, they chose to visit the CIE to learn a little about China, Chinese culture and language.

During their one day visit, the CIE prepared a series of activities for these students, such as an introduction to Chinese history, customs, food culture, transportation and shopping. A short language instruction period was also prepared for the group, enabling students to learn some basic greetings in Mandarin. The students also had the opportunities to experience Tai Chi and Chinese Dough Art. Of course Chinese food was brought in for lunch.

The associate dean of business school, Dr. William Wei, and his assistant were with the students during the entire visit. One day is very short but the visit provided the students an opportunity to learn more about China, its language and culture. It gave these young



## YCT/HSK Administration Certification Training

The CIE organized a special training session for 16 Chinese teachers on YCT/HSK test administration. The purpose of this training was to provide an opportunity to review the regulations and rules governing test delivery in preparation for these teachers to sit an exam that would certify them as HSK test administrators.

Since last year, Hanban has requested that the teachers who supervise YCT/HSK tests need to need to have a special certification.

Edmonton has a large Chinese language program and every year many students write the YCT or HSK tests. This year more than 1300 students have registered. This presents a challenge in administrating all the tests at many different schools. Therefore, special training is provided to ensure certified testers are available. The CIE will now train teachers annually and within 3 years, all Chinese teachers will be certified according to Hanban's specification.

The CIE's visiting teachers worked very hard to provide support and assistance for the training sessions.

people a base of cultural awareness which will benefit them as they make their first visit to China.

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### CIE Hosts the 3rd Principal Meeting

On April 12, the Confucius Institute held the 3rd Confucius Classroom principal meeting of this school year. 20 principals and assistant principals attended the meeting. Most of these principals were from Confucius Classrooms and a few were from schools that offer Chinese program and are currently applying for Confucius Classroom status. Dr. Sandra Stoddard, the Executive Director of Edmonton Public Schools, also participated in the meeting.

Many topics relating to the regular work of Confucius Classroom were covered, such as 2015 and 2016 budget preparation, China trips, visiting teachers, Chinese language proficiency test s(YCT/HSK), Chinese Bridge Competition and summer camps.

At the meeting, the principals also discussed some issues about how to improve the teaching and learning of Chinese programs.



### Culture Courses to Schools

In April, the CIE teachers continued to be busy offering sessions in Chinese traditional culture to various schools. Up to now in this school year, it is estimated that the CIE teachers have provided many different Chinese culture sessions to more than 30 schools, with more than 13000 students having attended sessions such as Tai Chi, Chinese Dough Art, Chinese Knots, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese painting and Chinese paper cutting.

The Chinese culture sessions have become so popular that many schools, including the those not offering Chinese language, make requests to the CIE on an annual basis.

These culture sessions enhanced cultural richness of schools and all students seem to have enjoyed the opportunity of learning Chinese cultural arts and crafts. For those students who are in the Chinese program, they also had the opportunity to practice their

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## Culture Courses for Communities

Every year, the Confucius Institute offers a variety of Chinese traditional courses to different community organizations and associations. They are mainly seniors. Our teachers will go to their location to offer a series of classes. Since January 2016, the CIE has provided culture courses to more than 10 different organizations and groups totalling more than 500 people.

The most popular courses are Chinese dough art, Chinese knots, Tai Chi, Chinese painting and Chinese paper cutting.

The Confucius Institute has offered such culture courses to many different organizations, especially the senior groups, for the last 6 or 7 years and it has received many positive comments.

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Chinese language.

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## First Experience with Ballet in Canada

Some of the CIE visiting teachers had a great learning experience watching a modern ballet on April 17. This is the first time for most of them to see such a show in Canada and they all enjoyed very much. This show was performed by CITIE BALLET with a variety of dances with modern ballet style.

It was appreciated that Trustee Orville Chubb invited the visiting teachers to the show.

Trustee Chubb met all the visiting teachers before the show and also specially introduced the directors and some dancers to the visiting teachers, and a productive conversation followed.

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## 12th Canadian National TCSL Symposium

Dr. Wei Li was invited to attend the 12th Canadian National TCSL Symposium on April 22. This symposium was organized by Canadian TCSL Association and held at Crofton House in Vancouver. The Chinese Consulate in Vancouver was the sponsor for this event.

About 70 Chinese teachers and professors attended the meeting. At the symposium, Dr. Li gave an presentation on the Edmonton Chinese bilingual program, covering its development, achievements and challenges.

At the opening ceremony of this symposium, a special award was presented to Dr. Li for his 25 years of contributions to the Chinese language education.

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## CIE Held Monthly Meeting for All Visiting Teachers

In order to help all the 16 visiting teachers to improve their work at schools, as well as in the Confucius Institute, the CIE organizes a monthly meeting for all the visiting teachers. During the meeting, the visiting teachers have the opportunity to receive the updates on what has been happening at the CIE. In addition, the teachers are provided time to share their work and their best practices in the schools and at the CIE. This provides them with a chance to learn from each others work and experience. The CIE also take this opportunity to offer some professional development to them, enabling the teachers to become familiar with the local education system and teaching pedagogy, as well as to learn some cultural awareness. The monthly meeting provides strong support to all the visiting teachers and makes them feel more comfortable working here in Edmonton.

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