



CONFUCIUS  
INSTITUTE  
IN EDMONTON

通讯

( Tōngxùn- newsletter )

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

03/14/2018  
February,  
2018



### **2018 Chinese New Year Singing & Dancing Gala**

Main Host  
Confucius Institute in Edmonton

Co-Hosts  
Edmonton Beijing Opera Association  
Conservatory of Music, MacEwan University

Edmonton Tianjin Association  
Greenland Music Society  
Canada China Friendship Association of Edmonton  
The Chinese Journal

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### Singing Edmonton - Chinese New Year Singing & Dancing Gala

On February 18, the Confucius Institute of Edmonton (CIE) successfully held the "Sing Edmonton – Edmonton Chinese New Year Singing & Dancing Gala" at the Triffo Theatre at MacEwan University to celebrate Chinese New Year and the 10th anniversary of the CIE. Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman, EPSB Board Chair Michelle Draper, EPSB Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lorne Parker, and Consul Xiao Jun from the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver brought greetings to the gala. Many other special guests also attended.



### Celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year at West Edmonton Mall

On February 3 & 4, the CIE participated in the annual Chinese New Year celebration at West Edmonton Mall. This annual event featured a Chinese culture marketplace and a variety of Chinese traditional and folk performances. Some special guests attended the event including Premier Rachel Notley, Federal Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi, MP Randy Boissonnault and MLA Thomas Dang as well as the Consul General Lu Xu.



Notable individuals such as Premier Rachel Notley, Consul General Lu Xu from the Chinese Consulate in Calgary, Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson, and EPSB Superintendent Darrel Robertson and EPSB Board Chair Michelle Draper sent written greetings.

Around 200 performers were involved in the performance, including Mr. Fang Li – former Deputy Consul General of Chinese Consulate in Calgary and former Consul General of Chinese Consulate in Toronto, Mr. Dan Rowley – well-known Opera singer from Edmonton Opera House and Mrs. Linda Steinbring – Edmonton well-known pianist.

A short video showcased the achievements and developments of CIE in the past 10 years.

The event received strong support from co-organizers including: Edmonton Beijing Opera Association, Greenland Music Society, Edmonton Tianjin Association, MacEwan University Conservatory of Music, Canada-China Friendship Society of Edmonton, and The Chinese Journal. All their hard work has made this gala possible.

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During the two-day celebration, the CIE teachers displayed a variety of traditional Chinese arts like calligraphy, dough art, Chinese knots and Chinese handkerchief dance. Many people showed great interest in the beautiful Chinese writing, colourful dough figures and Chinese knots which symbolizes good luck and a prosperous life. Some visitors were eager to find out how to make the Chinese handkerchief twirling and spinning. The Consul General Lu Xu also visited the CIE booth and brought the Chinese New Year greetings to the CIE teachers. CIE organized 30 minutes of performance at the celebration, including dancers from Ross Sheppard School Confucius Classroom, Londonderry School Confucius Classroom and Meyonhk School Confucius Classroom. Four CIE teachers also participated in the Eating Contest and had a lot of fun.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for Edmontonians to celebrate the Year of the Dog together and to experience the unique Chinese culture.

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## Grand Opening Ceremony of Kim Hung School

On February 7, Dr. Wei Li, director of the CIE, was invited to attend the grand opening ceremony of the new Kim Hung School. Kim Hung School is the first school in Edmonton history to be named after a Chinese person. Ms. Mei Hung, wife of the late Mr. Kim Hung, attended the ceremony along with many VIPs from federal, provincial and municipal governments as well as leaders from the Edmonton Public School Board. Liu Xiao, the visiting teacher from CIE, was also invited to provide the Chinese traditional music at the ceremony.



Kim Hung was an advocate of Edmonton's Chinese community and a founder of the ASSIST Community Services Centre as well as many voluntary agencies. He helped establish the Mandarin Bilingual Program at Edmonton Public



## MLA Thomas Dang Brings Chinese New Year Greetings to CIE

On February 21, MLA Thomas Dang visited the CIE, bringing Chinese New Year greetings to all visiting teachers and staff. During the visit, Mr. Dang toured the CIE and showed a great interest in the hallway gallery which displays the development of CIE as well as the various activities and events the CIE has hosted. Mr. Dang handed out the red envelope and wished everyone a happy and prosperous year.



Mr. Dang is one of a very few MLAs whose background is from the Chinese heritage. He once studied Chinese in the Chinese bilingual program of Edmonton Public Schools and is subsequently able to speak some Chinese and knows Chinese culture. Mr. Dang has shown great support to the CIE during the past few years by attending various kinds of events, and



Schools, which has about 2000 students in 13 schools with the development of 35 years. In 2006 he was inducted to the City of Edmonton Hall of Fame in recognition for his life's work in community services.

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## CIE Movie Day to Celebrate Chinese New Year and Its 10th Anniversary

In celebration of Chinese New Year and the 10th Anniversary of the CIE, the CIE organized the CIE Chinese New Year Movie Day on February 27. The event was offered with the cooperation of Edmonton Outdoor Sports, Edmonton Tianjin Association, Canada-China Friendship Association of Edmonton and Edmonton Chinese Unity Association. More than 300 people attended the event at the Cineplex Odeon Windermere & VIP Cinemas to watch the Chinese movie "Office". The musical drama starred Yun-Fat Chow, Sylvia Chang, Eason Chan and Wei Tang, and has received 4 wins and 13 nominations since its release in 2015. The audience experienced the daily work life and workplace relationships in China with the help of stylish music and songs.

his support is much appreciated.

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## CIE Teachers Attend the "Second Languages Matter" Conference

On February 9, the annual "Second Languages Matter" Conference was held at Fantasyland Hotel at West Edmonton Mall. Approximately 350 second language educators from across Alberta and beyond attended the conference. Among them were some Chinese visiting teachers from the CIE.



At the conference, Dr. Tian Liang, the Chinese Special Advisor of Alberta Education, and Dr. Wei Li, director of the CIE, gave a presentation



Consul Xiao Jun from the Chinese Consulate in Vancouver attended and expressed Chinese New Year wishes to all the audience and also congratulated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIE. Before the movie, a short video was played to look back on the developments and achievements of CIE in the past 10 years.

The event was well received by the audience. They hope the CIE could bring more Chinese movies to local people.

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on the “Impact of the Chinese Bilingual Program on Career Development”, sharing their study based on the research and analysis of about 30 students graduated from the Mandarin Bilingual Program. This study displays the significance of the Chinese bilingual program on the students as well as the importance to learning Chinese in the current world. The presentation attracted a lot of interest and attention from the audience.

During the conference, CIE also set up a booth to introduce the CIE and promote services and programs the CIE provides.

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## CIE Provides Chinese New Year Lunch for All the Staff at Languages Centre

On February 16, the actual Chinese New Year Day, the CIE hosted a Chinese New Year potluck lunch for all the staff of the Languages Centre at Woodcroft.



## More Chinese New Year Celebrations and Events

With the start of Chinese New Year and the 10th anniversary of the CIE, the CIE experienced its busiest time of the year in February.

In addition to CIE Movie Day and the Chinese

A variety of homemade and traditional Chinese dishes were served to celebrate the Year of the Dog. The dishes included wonton soup, dumplings, spring rolls, green onion cakes, spare ribs and chestnuts, 5-spice tofu, fried rice, and rice cake (nian gao). Some of the dishes symbolize the best wishes for the New Year: for example, dumplings meaning “rolling out the old year and rolling in the new year”, and rice cake meaning “increasing prosperity year after year”. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and had a great New Year atmosphere with the happy Chinese folk music as the background.



Mr. Jinjun Wang, Chinese director of the CIE, delivered the Chinese New Year greetings to all the people on behalf of the CIE. He also took the opportunity to thank the staff of IISLE for their support to the CIE. Ms. Patti Christensen, supervisor of the IISLE, wore the traditional Chinese dress and expressed her appreciation for the annual Chinese New Year lunch the CIE prepared on behalf of the IISLE staff.

Chinese New Year is the time for reunion and thanksgiving. It is also a good time to further strengthen the connections and communications between the CIE and IISLE.

New Year Singing & Dancing Gala, the CIE was also invited to participate in a series of Chinese New Year celebrations in the community. They included: the annual and the biggest Chinese New Year celebrations at West Edmonton Mall, the Chinese New Year celebration at Boonie Doon Mall by ECBEA, the Chinese New Year Carnival 2018 at the Edmonton Chinese Catholic Parish, Lunar New Year Celebration at Londonderry Mall by the North Edmonton Business Association, as well as celebrations at Concordia University and NorQuest College. The CIE also provided strong support to schools for their Chinese New Year celebrations.



During these events, many different government officials were in attendance. The CIE teachers highlighted the Chinese New Year with various traditional Chinese cultural displays and arts, games and performances, including paper cutting, Chinese knots, dough art, calligraphy, Chinese painting, Tai Chi, Chinese handkerchief dance, Chinese Yoyo, Chinese chess, Chinese checkers. They brought a lot of fun and New Year wishes to the public, teachers and students.

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