

# 卅載耕耘耆英 萬年基業澤華人



望能教育長者參與社區和關心公共政策。此外更與其他機構合作成立移民耆英倡導會，去年爭取維持長者巴士年費補助便是一個成功例子；其間我們共同取得 2,300 個簽名，並組織長者參加市議會會議，表達意見，最終長者巴士年費暫時得以維持不變，其成就是值得鼓舞。

在這二十年來，本會提供的服務由十五種增至五十種，每年服務人次亦由三萬六千上升到十二萬五千，這些林林種種的服務旨在滿足長者不同的需要，提升他們的健康及生活質素。在此再次感謝所有當屆和歷屆的理事、顧問、義工和同事在三十年來對耆英會的無私奉獻和努力，創造你我共同擁有的長者服務，造福社羣。

CCECA's 30th anniversary is a joyful time that calls for celebration. All volunteers and staff of CCECA wish the association continued success in delivering more and better services to the citizens of Calgary.

I started working for the association twenty years ago. Due to limited resources, we had only four to five staff members at the time and provided outreach services, social and recreation programs and senior benefit workshops to Chinese seniors in a small rented basement. A significant breakthrough came at the end of 1995. Under the leadership of Mr. Fei Hong Cheng, a group of enthusiastic volunteers worked together to build the present Seniors' Centre in Chinatown. The spacious self-financed centre not only enabled CCECA to accommodate more members but also provided us with a foundation to diversify and expand our services. We are thankful for their tireless effort and forward thinking.

Over the past twenty years, the number of staff has increased to 22. Together, we have created more than 20 new programs and services. From single provider model to collaboration with over 30 agencies, we have delivered many new programs to benefit the

Chinese population in Calgary. In the area of outreach, our services have been extended to different neighbourhoods through 28 senior support groups, catering to seniors who are not able to access our office in Chinatown. As well, the association organises on a regular basis workshops related to seniors' daily living so as to ensure that seniors have a better understanding of relevant benefits and programs. Besides, CCECA formally established The Way In network with three other senior-serving agencies to enhance service scope and quality.

In light of our continued focus on the health of seniors, CCECA has undertaken many partnership projects with the Alberta Health Services. In the last ten years, we have been hosting the Living Well program for seniors, which is a one stop shop program that provides counselling by health professionals, together with regular health workshops and a weekly exercise program. In addition, the Adult Day Program provides social and recreation services to seniors with special needs to add more color to their lives. Further, the annual emotional health carnival was created in partnership with ten other agencies with the aim to help the Chinese population to recognize the importance of emotional health. The Chinese Response to Family Violence is another inter-agency collaboration, created to provide support and assistance to victims of domestic violence. As well, CCECA has implemented many initiatives to promote the awareness and prevention of elder abuse, such as skits, DVD, workshop, radio show and the "Say No to Elder Abuse" booklet.

In alignment with our concern about community affairs and the welfare of seniors, CCECA established a volunteer-run Civic Engagement Group several years ago to facilitate civic participation among seniors and promote interest in public affairs and policies. We also joined force with other agencies to establish an "Immigrant Seniors Advocacy Committee" to effect positive social change. Last year, we worked together to protest Calgary Transit's proposal to discontinue the Senior Transit Pass Program. We collected 2,300 signatures and accompanied the seniors to the City Council meetings to express their concerns and voice their opinions. In the end, Calgary Transit's proposal was revoked temporarily and the seniors were all greatly encouraged by this accomplishment.

Over the past 20 years, the number of programs and services in CCECA has increased from 15 to 50, while the number of annual client contacts has risen from 36,000 to 125,000. All of our programs and services aim at meeting the needs of seniors and enhancing their well-being and quality of life. I would like to express my gratitude to all our past and



present directors, advisors, volunteers and staff for their selfless contribution and hard work that helped to create our co-owned senior services to benefit the community.