



The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
(Western Canada) Association
香港理工大學(加拿大西)員生會

SPRING 1997

NEWSLETTER 1



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學



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From the President
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Message

Message from the President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, also the Honorary Patron and advocate of the Association,

**Professor
Poon Chung-kwong**

It is with great pleasure that I convey my personal congratulations, as well as those of the University, to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Western Canada) Association on the publication of the inaugural issue of its newsletter.

Established in 1996, the Association is the University's first overseas society for its alumni and past employees, and marks the start of the Institution's expansion of its overseas network of alumni and former staff.

It is most gratifying that within less than a year of its inauguration the Association has already recruited more than a hundred members from the PolyU's graduates and past employees now residing in Western Canada. The Association has also played an important role in helping its members to improve their integration into the Canadian community.

I am confident that this newsletter will provide an excellent channel for its members to exchange experience and views, and that it will further enhance the communication between the Association and its members.

I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Association on the publication of the newsletter, and to express my gratitude to all those involved for their enthusiastic support to the Association. I would also like to assure you of the University's continued and wholehearted support for the work of the Association in the years ahead.

Poon Chung-kwong

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我們的願望

香港理工大學(加拿大西)員生會自一九九六年十月創立至今,已舉辦過多項活動,如成立典禮、歡迎潘宗光校長伉儷暨周年聚餐,及專題演講等,都得到不少同學和同事的支持,每次出席人數總是比預期踴躍。可是我們覺得仍然未能使各同學、同事感到和認同這員生會是「我們」的會。在街上或其他場合遇見同學、同事時,他們會問:「你們下次將會安排甚麼活動?」常常把同學、同事和理事會分爲「我們」和「你們」。

根據理大統計,從工專、理工到理大,畢業同學的總數超過十六萬,教職員亦不少。當中百份之幾居住在大溫哥華內?我們不知道,但是單從大溫哥華的華人人口超過二十萬算來,理大同學、同事的人數當然不少。我們創會的主旨,就是造就一個聯絡網,給予同學、同事一個叙舊和認識新朋友的機會,從而一方面可以與理大保持更密切的聯繫,關注和支持它的發展;另一方面,又可使各同學、同事分享在加拿大的經驗和知識,令新舊移民更順利融入加拿大社會,生活更如意。

基於要開關渠道給予各同學、同事聯絡和交流心得,我們創刊出版這份通訊。我謹借此一角重申「員生會是我們的會」的意念。誠心呼籲各位多花一點精神和時間在這「初生」的會上,例如介紹本會給各位認識的同學、同事;透過這份通訊或其他渠道提出意見和建議,積極投稿分享在加生活的體驗;義務幫忙會務;積極參加活動等。希望我們可以得到大家鼎力支持,透過群策群力,使會務一直拓展下去,達致更好的成績。

謹書數言與各同事、同學共勉,並祝這份通訊能成功發揮聯繫會員的作用。

會長
傅德枏
一九九七年春季

Editor's Column

Welcome to the brave new world of our (FIRST!) NEWSLETTER.

The Board of HKPUA intends that the NEWSLETTER will become a two-way or even multi-way link between members and the Board. This inaugural issue will bring to you news from the PolyU, the Association's news and upcoming events, as well as articles that will enhance your travelling pleasure and give you encouragement in life in North America.

It is also intended that the NEWSLETTER will

- be published three times a year;
- provide a venue for members to share his/her experience, opinion and suggestions; and
- bring out the artistic and literary talents of members.

Therefore, your Editorial Committee welcomes YOUR ARTICLES in the next and future issues.

*THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!
IT WILL ONLY FLOURISH WITH YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT!*

K. C. Yam
Editor

our newsletter needs:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ⇒ essays | ⇒ caricatures or drawings |
| ⇒ life stories | ⇒ household / cooking / travelling tips |
| ⇒ poems | ⇒ pointers on how to start / enhance life in Canada |

The text can be in English or Chinese!

** Please submit your articles to K.C. Yam or Amy Soo during the months of February, June and October. **

員生會去年底正式成立 逾百人出席成立典禮

一九九六年十月廿六日是香港理工大學（加拿大西）員生會正式成立的日子。由於這是理大首個在海外成立的校友組織，同時會員對象更首次伸展至舊同事，因此員生會的誕生可說具有相當意義！

促成員生會面世的人，正是現任的理大校長潘宗光教授，在他大力鼓勵支持下，一群居住在大溫的理大（包括其前身理工及工專）校友和舊同事組成籌委會，經過年多時間，陸陸續續將員生會的章程擬好，再向卑詩省政府申請成為註冊組織，並在去年十月成立。

成立典禮假列治文 Kwantlen University College 舉行，當天出席的校友、舊同事和親友超過一百人，反應之踴躍令人十分鼓舞。當天加入為會員的人數共八十多位，而截至九七年四月，會員人數已增至一百廿多人！



為表隆重祝賀員生會的成立，理大校方更特地委派負責校友事務的傳訊及公共事務主任潘占達先生專程來溫哥華，代表大力支持成立本會的潘宗光校長向員生會道賀。潘占達主任在典禮上除向校友及舊同事重申理大對員生會的支持，更承諾校方盡可能為本會提供協助及財政補助。他更表示校方寄望這個開創先河的員生會，會成為日後在世界各地陸續成立的理大員生會的藍本。



員生會籌委會會長傅德枏先生在會上闡釋成立該會的目的，是要為移民加西的理大、理工及工專員生組織一個聯繫網絡，藉此讓此地的會員與理大保持緊密聯絡，同時亦促進會員投入加國的生活。為此，除舉辦聯誼活動外，並會定期舉行會員感興趣的專題講座。為了瞭解會員的興趣範圍，會上又以問卷方式向會員徵詢對舉辦各種活動的意見。當天即時選出本會第一屆理事共九位，他們其後已互選出任不同職位。

HKPUA Board of Directors 1996/97

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週年聚餐濟濟一堂 歡迎潘校長伉儷訪溫

員生會在去年十月底成立後，首屆理事立即忙於籌備於十一月舉行的週年聚餐，以歡迎特地來溫祝賀員生會成立的理大校長潘宗光教授伉儷，同時藉此使會員在輕鬆氣氛下聯絡感情。

聚餐於九六年十一月廿三日假市中心悅海酒樓舉行，當晚參加的會員和嘉賓人數達一百七十餘，筵開十八席，好些會員更是舉家出席。對於一直鼎力支持成立本會的潘校長來說，會員的踴躍反應可說是他高瞻遠矚的明証。

潘校長在致詞時，表示他對本會作為理大首個海外員生會寄予厚望；此外，他向與會者分享了對香港前景充滿信心的看法，同時，還介紹了理大的最新發展，和理大對「非香港」學生的取錄政策。以上各點，潘校長亦在今次訪溫期間，接受本地的兩家中文電視台、一家中文電台和一份中文報章訪問時暢談過。

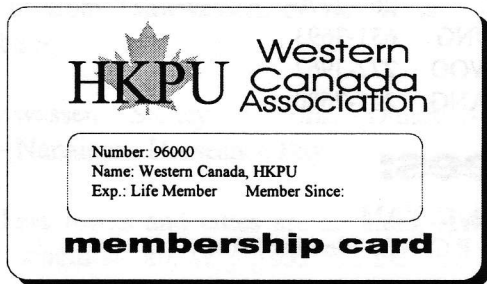


潘校長除了將有理大校徽設計的鎖匙扣贈予每位參加聚餐的人士，還帶來一批精美的理大紀念品供抽獎之用。事實上，當晚所有的獎品，都是由員生會的理事、會員和友好特別送出，在此一併向他們的支持致謝。



值得一提的，是當晚出席的其中一位嘉賓，是曾經慷慨捐助理大的張安德先生。張先生來溫定居後，亦曾解囊資助本地非牟利服務機構。能夠得到這位熱心公益的「理大之友」參與聚餐，當然令這個聚會倍添意義。

當晚參與聚餐的會員和嘉賓，不少都是早在香港已認識，今次在溫市重逢，自然份外親切，至於新相識的朋友，都因為理大的關係而有共同話題，因此氣氛極為融洽，場面十分熱鬧，大家都盡興而歸。而能夠提供這樣的機會，使會員增進聯絡，交換在加生活的體驗，正是本會的主要宗旨！



Remember to bring your MEMBERSHIP CARD with you when you are visiting Hong Kong. You can use your membership card for temporary access to the PolyU's library and sports facilities.

past & upcoming events

Thank you for your support and participation in the Inaugural General Meeting and Annual Dinner. The Association has been working hard in organizing activities that suit the interests of our members. The first talk was delivered during the Inaugural Meeting. It was on "Accreditation of Professional Qualifications in B.C." presented by Ms. Lurline Roy, Executive Director of International Credential Evaluation Services of Open Learning Agency, B.C.. The other two talks were held to introduce Canadian taxation and business opportunities to members. For those of you who have missed these two occasions, the main points of the two very enlightening talks are summarized for you on page 7.



Your are most welcome to participate in the next event :

Guided hike of the Dog Mountain on Sunday, May 25, 1997.

We will meet at : Mount Seymour Ski Area Main Parking Lot (ski rental lodge)

Time : 2.00 p.m. (allow 2.5 - 3 hours round trip)

Leader : Mr. Siegfried Welscher, an outdoor enthusiast.

Who can come : You and your family, young and elderly. Bring your friends too.

What to bring : A backpack containing juice/water, snack, rain gear, sun screen lotion, personal first aids and binoculars.

What to wear : Sportswear, jeans, runners (hiking boots are optional) and hat.

Difficulty level : The trail is relatively flat.

Optional dinner : Immediately after the hike, you are invited to join the **no-host** dinner at **Chao Phraya Thai Restaurant** (located at the entrance to Granville Island), 1505 West 2nd Ave. Vancouver (Tel : 732-8988)

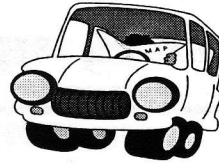


SURVEY ON MEMBERS' INTERESTS

A survey on the interests of our members was conducted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Association on October 26, 1996.

Respondents showed interest in exploring career and business opportunities, advancing professional knowledge and improving communication skills. For leisure activities, home improvement ranked highest, followed by health and relaxation activities. The sports enjoyed most were badminton, cycling, hiking, skiing and tennis. Sight-seeing tours ranked highest in social activities, followed by picnic and dinner gathering.

Travel Buggy



Living in North America gives us a lot of opportunities to travel by driving. Shall we bring those travel plans to this column so that other members can try them out?

The **Travel Buggy** will start our very first trip with some travel tips and a tour plan of Vancouver Island. This column also welcomes **YOU** to come on board and contribute new routes/plans/ suggestions etc.

Tour Tips

Confusing "Avenues" with "Streets"? Avenues usually run in the east-west direction and streets run in the north-south direction in most North American cities. Be aware, there are exceptions to the rules: town planners are human, they tend to be inconsistent. No need to look that far, compare the streets/avenues between Vancouver and North Vancouver! Surrey, however, is consistent.

It is true all odd-numbered US highways run in the north-south direction and all even-numbered US highways run in the east-west direction. There is no such rule in Canada, we have only one Trans-Canadian Highway!

2 day-1 night tour of Vancouver Island B.C.

This is the minimum time you should spend on Vancouver Island. The plan can be taken as a long-weekend trip or part of a driving tour on Vancouver Island. This tour covers the corridor between Victoria and Nanaimo. You can take the ferry from Horseshoe Bay or from Tsawwassen, or vice versa. The route can be :-

Tsawwassen - Sidney - Victoria - Duncan - Chemainus - Nanaimo - Horseshoe Bay

As these towns and cities are all along HWY 1, the road conditions are very good and the road signs are very clear. The traffic is not so congested on the Island, just watch out for log-hauling trucks.

You can find accommodations easily in Nanaimo, Chemainus, Duncan and Victoria. Motels are clean and relatively inexpensive. Hotels can only be found in Victoria and Nanaimo. Motels are usually priced for single or double occupancy and you pay extras for additional persons. Most rooms can easily accommodate four persons. Accommodations are tight in summer, especially during long weekends, in the Victoria areas. Book your accommodations in advance during the busy summer season. You can make your advance booking through BCAA.

Tour highlights

You can find more details from the *AA TourBook* or from the Travel Infocentres. Remember to pick up the *Victoria Street Map* on the Ferry. You need the Map to find the attractions in Victoria.

Victoria - Many attractions for just one day, you have to choose carefully.

Duncan - Good place to rest on your drive from Victoria to Nanaimo. Watch out for the row of Totem poles on the main thoroughfare in the city centre. If you have time, visit the BC Forest Museum, 1.5 km north on HWY 1.

Chemainus - Stroll around the streets of this small town and enjoy the more than 30 larger-than-life professional paintings on the wall of the down-town buildings. Travel Buggy recommends these murals as a must-see highlight in this tour.

Nanaimo - Watch or try Bungy Jumping into Nanaimo River Gorge at 12 km south on Hwy 1. Take a 10-minute ferry ride from behind the Civic Arena to Newcastle Island. It is a provincial marine park. A coal mine museum is located on the island. The island is not accessible by car.

Gabriola Island can be reached by ferry from Nanaimo. Sea waves have carved some sandstone caves on the beach of the Gabriola Sands Provincial Park.

Canadian Taxation Highlights

The combined federal and BC provincial personal marginal tax rates for income earned between 1995 and 1998 will be:

Taxable Income	1995	1996	1997	1998
\$0-29,590	26.44%	26.18%	26.18%	26.10%
\$29,591-53,666	40.43%	40.30%	40.04%	39.91%
\$53,667-59,180	44.53%	44.36%	44.02%	43.85%
\$59,181-62,192	49.67%	49.47%	49.01%	48.91%
\$62,193-78,209	51.12%	50.92%	50.55%	50.36%
\$78,210+	54.17%	54.17%	54.17%	54.17%

- The RRSP contributions limit has been frozen at \$13,500 until the year 2003.
- The annual RESP contributions limit is \$2000 and lifetime contribution per beneficiary is \$42,000.
- Making RRSP and RESP contributions will reduce your taxable income.
- The education tax credit is \$100 per month.
- The maximum amount of tuition fees and education tax credits transferrable to a supporting individual is \$850.
- A complex set of rules has been introduced requiring Canadians with interests in foreign properties and trusts to report detailed information about those foreign interests.
- Certain small businesses incorporated in BC between April 30, 1996 and April 30, 2000 will be exempted from provincial tax for two years.

(Excerpted from the HKPUA-organized talk on Personal and Corporate Taxation on February 26 1997 by Ms. Chan Hoi, CGA).

EXPLORING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN BC

DOs

- Do research the Canadian market
 - Go mainstream
 - Niche positioning
- Do select the right product
 - Spending preference
 - Size & Type?
- Do learn the Canadian way of doing business
 - Quality vs Price
 - Customer Service
 - Command of English
- Do tax plan for your operation in advance

DON'Ts

- Don't be misled that BC is unfavourable for doing business
- Don't start a business without serious consideration
- Don't dump stock items into Canada
- Don't mark your items at too low a price
- Don't consider only your own ethnic market
- Don't miss out business opportunities due to tax reasons

(Excerpted from the HKPUA-organized talk on "How to Set Up Business in Canada" on April 5, 1997 by Mr. Philip Ho, Msc, IASBM.)



理工人物誌

在計劃出版這份通訊時，我們希望在每期介紹一位校友或舊同事在移居加國後的奮鬥經歷，讓他們向其他會員分享如何投入加國生活之道，相信這些寶貴經驗對我們都很有參考學習的價值。

本欄第一位要介紹的，就是本會會員當中最早移居加國的永權先生。他於廿六年前來加，從基層幹起，到了今天，已是加國華人熨金業的翹楚，他的成功史也是苦幹成功的老華僑的寫照。永先生更出錢出力支持本會通訊的出版，在這裡我們衷心致以謝意。對於這樣一位勤奮創業而又積極支持會務的會員，以他作為通訊創刊號介紹的人物，可說最適合不過。

永權在工專本來唸會計，先後取得工廠會計和成本會計的文憑，畢業後在香港的工廠任職會計，也曾自行執業，為工廠核數、報稅，以及申辦用以豁免聯邦特惠稅用的綜合來源証。他的才能非只限於會計，對於駕駛遊艇，他亦很有心得。曾經一度，他是香港國際遊艇學會會長，擁有一艘遊艇，而跟他學習駕駛遊艇的學生，不下百餘人。

一九七一年，永權放下在香港的一切事業，毅然來到加拿大定居。他先在亞省一個小鎮謀生，於一間唐餐館的廚房工作。接下來的幾年，他在卡加利幹過多種工作。可以說，傳統上華僑在北美所做的工作，他都嘗試過，包括廚房、雜貨店和洗衣店的職務，後來，又做過卡加利學校局的管理員。

七六年，他搬到卑詩省來，在素里繼續任學校局管理員的工作。兩年後，他實行在溫哥華開創自己的事業，開始時做一些入口生意。憑著靈活變通，又肯邊做邊學，終於便轉到熨金行業去。其中的契機，是由於他在香港時曾在鞋廠當成本會計，目

睹熨金服務在商品包裝方面的需求原來很大，例如鞋盒的標籤便需要熨金加以生色。他看準了當時加國華人對中文熨金服務需求甚殷的市場，便立刻付諸行動。雖然對熨金技術毫無認識，卻下定決心，在八〇年飛往紐約，以鍥而不捨的精神想盡辦法購得熨金機器和掌握熨金技術。

原來他的眼光的確獨到，在加國，他是第一個提供中文熨金服務的廠商，而他的第一批顧客，順理成章是唐人街的參茸店。永權為他們製造熨金膠盒，以盛載參茸海味。逐漸，他的服務範圍多元化起來，包括承接請柬、月份牌的熨金，而顧客對象亦遍至全國。

大抵做生意的人是永不會甘於停步不前的。永權曾在八四年把上了軌道的熨金廠賣掉，到大陸繼續拓展他的事業。八八年，他又回到溫哥華，重新發展熨金服務。這時，溫哥華的熨金業已比從前蓬勃，而永權在面對其他競爭對手的情況下，所接的訂單仍然可以不斷增加；時至今日，他已是加國華人熨金業的表表者，出品愈來愈精美，而且類別多樣化，包括禮盒、請帖、月曆牌、揮春和紅封套等，單是一個月的營業額已比八十年代初創業時全年總和為高。

談到成功的秘訣時，他說：「做生意信譽相當重要，顧客對你的信心是由時間和與你交易的經驗中積聚而來的。我的待客宗旨是要為顧客提供認真可靠的服務、多元化的商品款式以供選擇，而價錢亦豐儉由人。在製作方面，我對出品要求嚴格，而且盡量機械化，減少人力成本。」所以，雖然全國各地都紛紛開設華人熨金廠，他依然有遠至安省和亞省的顧客。

總括自己的創業處世經驗，他仍然堅持誠信是最重要的。「寧願自己吃點眼前虧，長遠而言，顧客當然知道誰最可靠、可光顧誰。」他不假思索的說。

這句簡單的說話，又蘊含著多少亙古不變的道理呢！永權的服務宗旨和肯幹的態度，正代表著傳統華僑創業的典型，亦標誌著華人奮鬥成功的例子！

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