



Photo by Phil Shedd

5. To implement designed to assist Chinese migrants and transient families to accommodate more comfortably their chosen Canadian communities. To date, the objectives of the Association are to preserve the Chinese identity, to prevent total assimilation and to ensure that Chinese people living in Canada, who are trying to become Canadians. The NB CACA was established in April to achieve the Human Rights Commission's recommendation in 1967. Support has been given to the Association for the Advancement of the Chinese People (NAACP), the United Nations Indian Brotherhood (UNIB), the Canada Civil Liberties Association, the NDP, the Action Canada Association, the Chinese Overseas Student Association. The Montreal Chinese Catholic Association has also lent their support to this endeavour. Several noted individuals support the presence of Chinese representation on the Commission. David Lewis MP, Paul Hellyer MP, Mayor Locke St. John and Mayor McCrae of St. John's. Mayor Jones of Moncton has no acknowledgement to his support and Mayor Bird of St. John's elicits no support for formal membership on the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Kinsella, chairman of the Commission, evades the issue by stating that there are 53 ethnic groups in Canada. The Chinese argue that these groups are not all represented in New Brunswick and no other minority has asked for representation. Mr. Stanfield's reply concerning support to the Association was that it is not a federal matter, he would do something by sending a letter, asking for support, to the office of the Premier of New Brunswick. Mr. Stanfield's reply to Hum was "I have considered your Association's representation when changes were made in the Commission and although the new Commission has been established, we would welcome suggestions for future consideration."

Hum's comment was that "the doors are open to the international scale, but not on the provincial scale." He stated that the Chinese in NB, and Canada as a whole, are a racial minority

when biological factors are considered and not a cultural minority.

In NB there are 2300 people of Chinese/Asian extraction. These people are discriminated against in several different areas.

EMPLOYMENT

Most of the Chinese in NB are employed in the restaurant business. This is because of the number of families that can be employed in one business. They are not socialized to any degree of fluency in the English language and Canadian norms to get any other jobs. Chinese citizens are also employed in the medical profession. However, these people are professionals before they come to Canada. Because of this, it is easier for them to assimilate into the Canadian culture.

Discrimination against Chinese concerning employment is thus an indirect act — before he gets to the employer. They have no opportunity to learn the language so they are unable to get jobs.

HOUSING

Discrimination in housing is evident in the way foreign students are refused accommodations by various Fredericton landlords. Prior to this year the accommodations list at the university printed that no foreign students were wanted. Though this is no longer printed, Chinese students are still refused.

Hum said that if you were Chinese and buying a house, you would not be subjected to any discrimination. But, if you were renting, it would be in low-rental areas because middle-class apartments are refused to Chinese people. Evidence of this exists in Fredericton itself, where there are three or four families, plus relatives, living together in one house, making it a sort of ghetto apartment and micro-Chinatown, because they are refused elsewhere. Though this is so, discrimination is directed more against foreign Chinese students in this area.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Chinese in New Brunswick "do not receive the fullest benefits of medical services", stated Mr. Hum. Because there are no available translation services it is difficult for Chinese-speaking people to even go to a doctor, let alone to receive treatment. As a result, many Chinese women go through their prenatal and postnatal pregnancy periods with little medical assistance because the doctors do not understand them. Such essential services as VON are not even known to

most Chinese because there exist no available means for them to learn our language or to make themselves understood.

EDUCATION

Discrimination concerning education also reduces to the fact that there are no programs installed to enable Chinese to learn English. If there is no enforcement of English before a child becomes six years old, how is he to get through school?

PUBLIC TREATMENT

For the most part, discrimination in this area, arises, not from Chinese committing crimes, but from people harassing the Chinese. Hum illustrated this by saying that whenever an "inebriated Caucasian" harasses a restaurant owner, the instance is not recorded because by the time the police arrive the culprit has left. Again discrimination is a result of a lingual and cultural barrier — the Chinese don't know the language; therefore, they don't know the law, and consequently no charges are made.

Hum himself was exposed to police discrimination in May of this year, at a luncheon of the NB John Howard Society. He said that he was falsely arrested for a demonstration about the denial of his civil liberties. He was carrying a sign on his back which asked the J. Howard Society and Provincial and Federal Depts. of Justice to help stop racial and employment discriminative practices by the NB Corrections Branch. When ordered to remove it, he did so without protest. This demonstration concerned Hum's dismissal from the NB Training School eleven years ago. No investigation was made. Hum took his case to the Human Rights Commission but it was rejected,

as it does all Chinese grievances.

SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE

Chinese people are accepted as law-abiding citizens — they show no threat to the existing order. However, they do not receive the same socialization as us in participating in community affairs. Hum stated that this is due to: "the door is open, but the hand is not extended to let them in." "And when you're a minority group", he said, "you need this hand."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

The Chinese have contributed to NB society in a complacent way in that "they have not contributed to the deviance of the province", said Hum. There is only one family on welfare; only one receiving unemployment insurance, by legal definition; only one has been imprisoned; and only two have ever been on probation. The Chinese also broke the colour barrier by having the first Canadian-born Chinese NB Rhodes Scholar.

The contributions of those in businesses can be measured by saying that they are employed in honest professions — restaurants and doctors. The Chinese people in NB are not well-off. Once more this reduces to the fact that, if they don't know our norms and language, they can't get into any field. Hum stated that "there should be government programs to aid this."

Because the Chinese in NB are sparsely situated, it is difficult for the NB CACA to function in following the guidelines of its initial program. One of the future aims of the organization is to obtain representation on the NB Human Rights Commission. Mr. Hum said that this will be achieved but, "only by employing public trickery and pressure", which shouldn't be so. Also, it wishes to put out pamphlets to aid the Chinese coming into the province. Before it does this however, it must get accepted by the government.

Continued on page 14

Photo by Phil Shedd

