

Executive Committee - Renaming Union Station to Sir John A. Macdonald Station

From: Rail Road <fccrwc@gmail.com>
To: <councillor_crawford@toronto.ca>, <councillor_crisanti@toronto.ca>, <cou...
Date: 14/06/2014 7:19 PM
Subject: Renaming Union Station to Sir John A. Macdonald Station
CC: <exc@toronto.ca>
Attachments: July 1 Rairoad Flyer 2014.pdf

Dear Members of Toronto's Executive Committee,

I am writing you today on behalf of the Foundation to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada with regards to the possible renaming of Union Station to Sit John A. Macdonald Station. The goals of the Foundation include promoting the understanding and awareness of the contribution to Canada by the Chinese Railroad Workers who participated in the construction of the first transcontinental railway (the CPR) that united Canada geographically and politically; and promoting the awareness of the government's legislation of unjust Immigration Acts against the Chinese pioneers and their families.

There is no question that Sir John A. Macdonald championed the building of the railroad to link the eastern and western regions of Canada. Over 17,000 Chinese came to Canada from 1881 through 1884 to build the most difficult and dangerous section of the railroad through the Rocky Mountains. They were paid much less than non-Chinese workers and over 4000 Chinese workers died from landslides, premature blasting and unsafe working conditions.

After the construction of the railroad was completed in 1885, the Canadian government introduced the Chinese Immigration Act, which required all Chinese people entering Canada to pay a head tax of \$50. In contrast, European immigrants were offered free land to settle parts of the country. This same year, the Electoral Franchise Act was also passed in parliament, with an important amendment forwarded by Macdonald that an eligible voter was "a male person, including an Indian, and excluding a person of Mongolian or Chinese race."

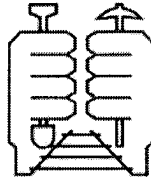
Our goal is for more people to understand and appreciate the history of Chinese pioneers and the contribution of Chinese railroad workers in Canada. As such, if the decision is made to rename Union Station after Macdonald, we would encourage the City to include opportunities to educate the public about the important contributions of Chinese railroad workers, particularly as this renaming would be for a railroad station. We would encourage the City to direct people from Union Station to visit and remember these people at the Memorial to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada, located on Blue Jays Way at Spadina Ave.

We invite you to attend our annual wreath laying ceremony on Canada Day at 10:30 AM at the Memorial. Please contact us if you are available to attend and we would be happy to send you more details about the event.

Sincerely,

Karen Sun
Secretary

Foundation to Commemorate Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada
<http://www.mhso.ca/tiesthatbind/>



FOUNDATION TO COMMEMORATE THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS IN CANADA

CANADA DAY

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

In celebration of the 129th ANNIVERSARY of the
Canadian Pacific Railway and in acknowledgement
Of the contributions of the Chinese Railroad Workers
To the unity of Canada

Members of the
Foundation to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada
Extend a cordial invitation to you, your friends and your organizations
Together with other organizations in the community
To a

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

At

The Monument of the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada
On Blue Jays Way, East of Spadina Ave., South of Front St.

10:30 a.m.
July 1st. 2014

The winners of the annual
James Pon Memorial Award
will be announced.

*We look forward to your participation in celebration of Canada Day by paying
homage to our pioneers at the Monument adjacent to Rogers Centre.*

Andy Mark
Chairman

For more information about Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada
visit our website:

<http://www.mhso.ca/tiesthatbind/>