



Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

全加華人協進會(平權會)多倫多分會

Dorset Park Community Hub, 1911 Kennedy Rd #105 Toronto, ON M1P 2L9

Request: Rejection of any attempt to halt licensing of Holistic Practitioners from the five designated Holistic Practitioners; immediate cessation of harassment of holistic practitioners; and systematic review of unfair bylaws that discriminate against racialized businesses and workers.

April 10, 2018

Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, CCNC Toronto, is organization of Chinese Canadians in the city of Toronto. For over 35 years we have been promoting equity, social justice & diversity through community & civic engagement, and public education initiatives. Our community organizing work has ranged from successfully pushing the Government of Canada to provide a comprehensive redress to head-tax survivors to everyday support of people the Chinese Canadian community whether they are new immigrants, or long time Canadian citizens. We count within our membership thousand of Chinese Canadian residents in Toronto: voters, small business owners, workers, union members, professionals, new comers, and community members from all walks of life.

Today we are submitting this letter in support of submissions from: the Holistic Practitioners Alliance, The Coalition Against Abuse by Bylaw Enforcement who have made very clearly why it is absolutely critical to end the current unfair practices against holistic practitioners. We are writing this demonstrate to you our our full support of holistic practitioners and to make clear to you that we will be are deeply concerned about the wide ranging set of issues facing holistic practitioners which are to put minimally, extremely egregious and dubious by both moral and legal standards.

Holistic practitioners are a very important part of the Chinese Canadian community, this industry employs thousands of people, and contrary to tremendously misguided assessments of some, has absolutely zero demonstrable connection to any sort of human trafficking. The current issue being debated in regards to the temporary halting of licensing would bring tremendous damage to this industry and workers employed therein. While the justification for the stop to licensing is the fact that these associations account a majority of the violations, a careful review of evidence brought about by the *Holistic Practitioners Alliance* and *The Coalition Against Bylaw Abuse* should illustrate that these numbers are high because of the extremely egregious abuse of

policing and ticketing that many of these holistic practitioners face. The mistreatment of this group is inseparable from their social location as marginalized immigrant women with limited English capacities and disempowered position. As such, the sort of policing and ticketing abuse that has been going on is through and through reprehensible and the tickets that are received by holistic practitioners are by in large illegitimate, or at the very least, their legitimacy severely compromised given the discriminatory practices of policing authorities. All in all, there is absolutely zero justification for proceeding with this policy. To recap, CCNC Toronto calls on the committee and elected officials of city hall to:

1. Reject the proposal to halt the membership applications to the five (5) professional holistic associations in question. Allow the five professional holistic associations to continue as normal.
2. Immediately stop and investigate the well documented practices of harassment, abuse and misconduct by bylaw officers in their interaction with holistic practitioners and body-rub practitioners.
3. Cease the excessive and disproportionate policing of holistic practitioners and their worksites
4. Recognize that the unfair and specific targeting of holistic practitioners represents a clear example of racial profiling and racism by law enforcement as the overwhelming majority of the workers are Asian and Chinese specifically.
5. Ensure that any future reviews of future by law should employ a human rights lense to ensure that equity and fairness is upheld.

In summary, we are very concerned about the affairs facing holistic and body rub practitioners. We hope you will take decisive action to ensure that this industry and its workers are treated fairly and that you will seriously investigate the practices of abuse that has been documented in the submissions of the other organizations. Our organization will continue to follow up on the injustice being faced by holistic practitioners and we urge the committee and the council to take swift action on this unjust issue.

Sincerely,
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