



余嶽興醫生  
Dr. Joseph N.H. Du

## 為華人建豐碑的現代「白求恩」 溫城中華文化中心主席余嶽興醫生

在加拿大老一輩僑領中，余嶽興醫生聲望顯赫，數十年來辛勤於為海外華人建築豐碑，而他本身服務社會的善行義舉也建起了一座偉岸豐碑。沒有虛言的他腳踏實地做著每一件事，團結著所有加拿大華人的力量去爭取權益及榮耀，去完成未來心中之夢。

### 與杜魯多一起獲最高榮譽的華人

加拿大前總理杜魯多(Pierre Elliott Trudeau)是加國歷史上地位卓越的風雲人物，1985他獲得了加拿大最高榮譽「加拿大勳章」(Order of Canada)，但誰都不會忘卻，與他同台領獎的還有一位華人，那就是余嶽興，一位為傳揚中華文化，推動多元文化發展，扶助弱勢，治病救人而貢獻一生的醫生。

余嶽興醫生是一位在服務社會領域獲獎無數的僑領，除「加拿大勳章」外，還獲有緬省勳章、緬省最高水牛獎、省督獎、榮譽市民獎、社區服務獎等，這一切榮譽都離不開他對重建溫尼辟華埠和建立中華文化中心的貢獻。

溫尼辟華埠在上世紀七十年代開始，隨著香港台灣移民、留學生，越南難民等的增多逐漸出現興旺之跡，重建華埠成為新議題。1982年由余嶽興任主席組成了溫尼辟華埠重建發展協會，負責華埠的重建和美化工程，建成了華埠標誌的中國式大牌樓，以及中華風貌的緬華花園及中華文化中心大樓等，華埠為之煥然一新。1983年溫尼辟中華文化中心(WCCC)正式成立，余嶽興醫生被推選為主席，溫尼辟的中華文化傳揚由此揭

開新篇章。

### 傳揚中華文化 中加文化交流使者

中華文化中心的建立，開創了弘揚中華文化新天地，為華人社區提供了更好的文化娛樂服務，加深主流社會對中華文化的瞭解及相互融合。

中華文化中心1987年9月揭幕時，中國國務院僑辦贈送一對漢白玉石獅子安放在融華大廈入口處，台灣方面也贈送了一座精美的孔子雕像，這兩件禮物代表著海峽兩岸共同努力在海外傳承中華文化。溫尼辟市每年8月都會舉辦規模盛大的「民風節」活動，中華文化中心積極參與其中，建起一座「中國館」，展示中華文化風情，並曾邀請北京宋慶齡基金會青少年表演團、成都青少年表演團演出。文化中心兩年一次的「金龍宴」，慶祝送舊迎新的中國農曆新年，成為華人社會的一大慶典。2009年華埠迎來百年慶，特別出書以誌歷史紀念。

余嶽興醫生還是中加友好關係的「民間大使」，早在上世紀八十年代，他就通過加拿大保育組織向北京、成都及台北動物園各贈送一對北極熊，作為回贈中國於1989年免費借出一對熊貓在溫尼辟展出。同時，余嶽興推動促成溫尼辟市與台北、成都結為友好姐妹城市，他也為此在成都國際熊貓節中獲得「成都市國際友好大使獎」。

### 悲慘的童年 平等的追求

祖籍廣東新會的余嶽興，於1933年出生於越南海防，家境苦寒，從小過著顛沛流離的生活，年幼之時父親就亡於日本侵

略戰亂之中，17歲時作為難民逃難至台灣，在政府的資助下他刻苦攻讀，最後畢業於台灣大學醫學院，成為一名兒科醫生。本想到香港從醫，故先到加拿大尋求工作經驗，不料就此由60年代開始就安家於楓葉國，成為一個對社會貢獻卓越的加拿大人。

童年的痛苦使他更能體會到早年華工的艱辛，以及在歧視的人頭稅及排華法下的辛酸，「以前的華工真是很苦，不僅受不平等歧視政策的對待，而且鐵路華工薪水只有別人的一半，還要去當犧牲，生命很不值錢。」所以，他成為全加呼籲平反歧視政策，要求政府道歉賠償的最有力人士，並不遺餘力推動興建鐵路華工紀念碑。

1997年5月，緬省華人歷史研究會召開廢除排華法案50周年研討會，余嶽興醫生動議籌建鐵路華工紀念碑，並馬上由溫城中華文化中心主導成立建碑籌備委員會，他從策劃設計到募款都親力親為四處奔走。建造紀念碑銅像的資金不僅有包括華人社區在內的捐款、三級政府的資助，而且還得到中國國務院僑辦的大力支持。紀念銅像還專門請到加拿大世界級雕塑家Leo Mol 精心設計及雕刻，形象逼真傳神，似乎在向世人訴說著一個世紀以前那段辛酸難忘的歷史，成為溫尼辟市內一個重要文化歷史標誌。

### 「活著的白求恩」 走進原住民荒野

「懸壺濟世」本是余嶽興醫生的理念，孩童時的苦痛使他更樂於幫助弱勢民眾，但誰又能想到三十餘年他的足跡踏遍緬省所有原住民部落，原住民無人不識這位親切的「Dr. Du」，這可能全加都找不出第二人。

六、七十年代，前往缺醫少藥的偏僻原住民部落是很困難的事，但余嶽興醫生堅持不懈的走向他們，關愛他們。初時還都是坐著老舊的兩人座小型水下飛機前往，每次飛行都至少一、兩小時，而且機師還沒有具體方位地圖，目測到有原地駐扎地就找地方下降，所以，每次出外就醫余醫生家人都不知他何時才能回家，其間免不了會遇上大大小小的突發危險事件，如有一次就遇惡劣氣候小飛機栽入湖中，但余醫生對此已習以為常，處驚不亂。至今很多已長大成人的原住民，都念念不忘余醫生的大恩大德。

在余嶽興醫生即將退休的2001年初，著名的華裔記者黃明珍受「環球郵報」之委派，對余嶽興行醫進行了約一周的實地跟蹤採訪，隨後「環球郵報」刊出了一整版的「Dr. Du's dilemma」的報題報導，高度讚揚了他對緬省原住民醫療服務的奉獻精神。

「想人所想，急人所急」的余嶽興醫生，對所有救助弱勢的事都非常熱心，包括幫助加國難民安居服務，甚至連對以往猶太人在上海獲救助的歷史也非常感動，曾經奔波一年與加拿大猶太裔和日裔社團合作，成功舉辦一個「猶太人在上海」圖片展，介紹中國外交官何鳳山和日本外交官杉原在二戰中拯救數萬名猶太人的事跡。

言出必行 不要說不能做

為何余嶽興醫生能在數十年間完成如此多的功績？這並非他有超人能力，而是他具有熱忱，更重要的是他的人生信條，那即是：不要說不能做，做任何事都會很難，

「You do what you can」，說做的事一定要去努力完成。

他還很自豪的說，「正是這點，使我得到主流社會的尊重，他們都很信任我這個華人。」確實，余嶽興有著非常深厚的加國主流社會政商關係網，使他更容易為華人社區發出聲音，甚至像當年中文電視的建立，也是通過他的遊說順利獲得牌照。

對於加國華人社會的未來，他說，「現在華人比以前多很多了，連溫尼辟的華人從八十年代到現在都增長了一倍多，而且不像以前華人大多開餐館，打苦工，現在華人更有知識，有經濟實力，但華人需要更團結，不能山頭主義，這樣不容易做大事，團結一致對外，華人才能發揮潛力。」

余嶽興醫生在加拿大數十年都在為華人移民歷史、中華文化建立豐碑，因其在城市建設發展方面的貢獻，今年六月他在多倫多獲得加拿大城市研究院頒發Local Hero獎。如今年屆八十的他，心中仍在掛念著為付出人頭稅的華人建紀念碑的事，碑上刻上每個付稅華人的名字及總理哈珀的道歉聲明，而且他全心投入為服務大陸新移民而建的華埠「和平大廈」也將在今年年底完工。他追尋的是公平公義，以及未來華人社會的尊嚴及地位。





余嶽興2003年榮獲緬尼托巴省勳章  
Dr. Du receives Order of Manitoba in 2003



深入原住民區，關愛貧困家庭及兒童  
At the crosslake nursing station attending  
aboriginal outreach paediatric clinic



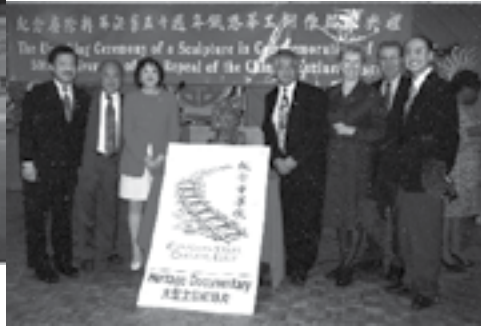
2005年與WCCCC國際夏令營成員於北京機場  
WCCCC International Summer Camp  
members arrive Beijing Airport (2005)



1997年與WCCCC代表參加成都熊貓節，  
並獲國際大使獎  
WCCCC delegation attends the Panda Festival  
in Chengdu in 1997. Dr. Joseph Du receives an  
International Ambassador award from Chengdu  
City Secretary General Mr. Huang



於「猶太人在上海」展開幕式  
Opening ceremony of 'The Shanghai Connection'  
Dr. Joseph Du and Mrs. Jeannine Du



參加紀念廢除排華法案五十週年典禮  
Celebration banquet, from L to R: David Choi,  
Joseph Du, Sophia Leung,  
Inky Mark, Pearl McGonigal, Jan Walls and  
Edward Woo



於溫尼辟中華文化中心兵馬俑展  
Dr. Joseph Du and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Mol with  
the Terracotta warrior and horse at Winnipeg  
Chinese Cultural Centre



溫尼辟中華文化中心董事局成員合照  
Winnipeg Chinese Cultural & Community  
Centre Board Members



1985年余嶽興榮獲加拿大勳章，  
與同獲獎的總理杜魯多合影  
Dr. Du with Prime Minister Pierre  
Trudeau at the Order of Canada  
award ceremony in 1985



余嶽興夫婦在溫尼辟與前總理穆隆尼夫婦合影  
Dr. Du And Mrs. Du with Prime Minister Brian  
Mulroney and Mrs. Mulroney in Winnipeg



余嶽興與Dr. Choy及Philip Lee合影  
Dr. Du, Dr. Choy & His Honour  
Philip Lee



2011年家庭合照，由左至右，Jeannine, Alex,  
Michelle, Jenifer, Audrey及余嶽興  
L to R: Jeannine, Alex, Michelle, Jenifer, Audrey and  
Joseph Du (family photo, 2011)

## Dr. Joseph N.H. Du A modern-day Bethune

**‘Think what others think; Feel what others feel...’**

*Among the older generation of Chinese-Canadian community leaders, Dr. Joseph Du probably has the most impeccable reputation. For decades he has labored long and hard to build a legacy for overseas Chinese; his community service alone stands on its own merit. Without fanfare and with his feet planted firmly on the ground, he works hard to complete each project, uniting Chinese-Canadians to fight for their rights and recognition in order to fulfill his lifelong dream.*

Pierre Elliott Trudeau is arguably the most prominent figure in Canadian history. In 1985, he received the Order of Canada, but no one can forget, receiving the same award on stage as Trudeau, was Dr. Joseph Du, someone who promotes Chinese culture and multicultural programs, and dedicates his entire life to helping the most vulnerable.

Dr. Joseph Du has won countless awards for his community service. Aside from being conferred the Order of Canada, he also received the Order of Manitoba, Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba’s award, honorary citizen, and other community service awards. All of these honors began when Dr. Du led the revitalization of Winnipeg’s downtown core and Chinatown, and the establishment of the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre.

Winnipeg’s Chinatown was initially formed in 1909. With the waves of immigration from Hong Kong and Taiwan, Vietnamese refugees and students, talk about rebuilding Chinatown began to surface. In 1982 the Winnipeg Chinatown Development Corporation was formed

with Dr. Du being the Chair and founding member, responsible for Chinatown’s revitalization and beautification. They went on to build the large China Gate, a symbol of Chinatown, along with a garden, giving Chinatown a complete facelift. In 1983, the project to build Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre (WCCCC) was launched, and Dr. Du was elected Chair. A new chapter for Chinatown and Chinese culture in Winnipeg thus began to unfold.

The new centre provides many sports and recreational opportunities for the local community. By increasing mainstream understanding of traditional Chinese culture through cultural exchanges, it brings together Chinese and other local communities. When WCCCC was formally opened in September 1987, China’s State Council Overseas Chinese Affairs Office gave a pair of white marble stone lions to put in front of the entrance. Taiwan also presented a statue of Confucius. These two gifts represent how cross-strait collaboration is possible when advocating Chinese culture overseas. Every August, WCCCC is actively involved in a folk festival held by the city of Winnipeg. It hosts a China Pavilion to display Chinese culture exhibits. At one time they invited Beijing Youth Performance Troupe of Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the Chengdu Youth Performance Troupe to perform to great success. Dr. Du and the WCCCC created the Golden Dragon Gala over twenty years ago to honour citizens who have greatly influenced their communities. This award banquet, held bi-annually, is a signature event in the local Chinese community. In 2009, the community celebrated Chinatown’s centennial anniversary, and published a book on its history.

Dr. Du is also a ‘People’s Ambassador’ for improving relations between China and Canada. In the 1980’s, through the Canadian Conservation Society, he arranged six polar bears to be transported to the zoos in Beijing, Chengdu and Taipei, in return for China loaning a pair of

giant pandas to Winnipeg in 1989. The pandas were lent to Winnipeg on goodwill (without the usual fees) due to Dr. Du's diplomacy with the Chinese Government. At the same time, through Du's advocacy, Winnipeg became a twin city to Taichung and Chengdu. He also received the 'Chengdu International Friendly Ambassador Award' at the Chengdu International Panda Festival.

Dr. Du's ancestors came from Xinhui in Guangdong Province. He was born into a very poor family in the city of Haiphong in Vietnam in 1933. He lived a life of turmoil from birth. His father, a businessman, died in the bombing raids by American forces during the Japanese occupation of Vietnam in the Second World War. His mother was left to raise five children on her own. In 1954, Vietnam was divided into North and South Vietnam in accordance with the Geneva Accords signed at the Geneva Conference. Dr. Du was evacuated by the Taiwanese government with a plane-load of Chinese students. With total government support, he was able to enter the medical school of National Taiwan University and finished a seven-year education. In 1961, he came to Canada as an intern at Regina's Grey Nuns Hospital, and was a pediatric resident later at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital for two years. After receiving a two year scholarship from the National Institute of Health in the United States as a senior research fellow, he was accepted at the University of Washington in Seattle. At the completion of his pediatric studies, Du returned to Canada, settling down in Winnipeg.

In part due to hardships in his own childhood, Dr. Du was very empathetic towards the early immigrants and understood the suffering they must have experienced, especially under the discriminatory head tax and the Chinese exclusion act. 'The Chinese laborers led such hard lives. Not only did they have to bear the unfair treatment from discriminatory government policies, but also their salaries from the

railroad companies were only half of what others got. Many sacrificed their lives; their lives were worth next to nothing.' Dr. Du was an outspoken champion for the Canadian government to issue an apology as well as provide monetary compensation to those who paid the head tax. He spared no efforts in advocating a memorial for the Chinese railroad workers. In May 1997, on the fifty-year anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, a plaque commemorating the repeal of the Act was erected in Winnipeg. From the beginning, Dr. Du was involved in the planning, design, and fundraising for this project. Funds were raised in the Chinese community, from the three levels of governments, and the Overseas Chinese Affairs of the State Council of China. World class sculptor Leo Mol was commissioned to design and build the brass memorial. It is now an important icon of Winnipeg's cultural history, telling an unforgettable heartbreak story from a century ago. In 2001, Dr. Du and the late Philip Chang visited Chengdu, China and commissioned a Chinese artist to create another statue of the Chinese railroad workers. It currently sits at the Winnipeg's Millennium Library until its permanent home at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is completed.

Helping the world through medicine has always been Dr. Du's mission. Perhaps because of his own childhood suffering, he is happy to help those most vulnerable. Even so, no one could have guessed that for over thirty years, he would be travelling to First Nations communities all over Manitoba. There are no first natives who have not heard of the friendly Dr. Du. There is simply no other person quite like Dr. Du in all of Canada.

In the sixties and seventies, it was very difficult to reach the remote communities of the first nations where they were short of doctors and medicine, but Dr. Du tirelessly reached out to these communities, showing his concern and love. In the beginning, he flew in an



antiquated two-people hydroplane to get there. Each flight took one to two hours. The pilots did not have positional maps - they had to locate visually where they could land. Each time Dr. Du left, his family did not know when he would be returning home. It was unavoidable that on some of these trips he would encounter dangerous situations. One time, the little plane fell into the lake because of inclement weather, but Dr. Du was already used to this and took it in stride. That is why today many natives will still remember Dr. Du's kindness.

In early 2001 as Dr. Du was about to retire, Globe and Mail Chinese-Canadian reporter Jan Wong was dispatched to spend a week following Dr. Du around. In the end she wrote a full-page story on him titled, 'Dr. Du's Dilemma', in recognition of his dedication to provide medical treatment to Manitoba's first peoples.

As someone who 'thinks what others think and feels what others feel', Dr. Du is always enthused about helping the vulnerable and the weak, including refugee settlement in Canada. He was especially moved by how Jews were once saved by acts of heroism during the Second World War. At one time he had spent a year working with the descendents of Jewish survivors and the Japanese community to put together an exhibit: 'the Shanghai Connection', telling the story of how Feng Shan Ho, a Chinese diplomat in Vienna and Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat, saved thousands of Jews from the Holocaust by issuing entry visas to Jews, who left Europe for Shanghai.

How can Dr. Du accomplish so much within a few decades? Dr. Du is no superman. He does it because he is a compassionate person, and more importantly, because he lives by these words: don't ever say you cannot do it just because it is difficult; you do what you can, and once you commit to it, try your best to finish. He says with pride, 'because of who I am, I have the respect of the mainstream society. They trust me

as a Chinese-Canadian.' Indeed, Dr. Du is politically well connected in Canada and his voice is a strong voice for the Chinese community. As an example, Chinese television stations were issued licenses quickly without any problems because of his influence.

Dr. Du says that Chinese-Canadians today are much better off than the previous generation. The number of Chinese in Winnipeg has doubled from the eighties. We are no longer stuck in the restaurant business, or have to work as laborers as before. Chinese-Canadians now have knowledge and economic power, but we need to be more cohesive; we cannot be parochial. Only when we are united, can we reach our full potential to accomplish whatever we wish.

Dr. Du has been working for the past few decades to build a legacy for Chinese immigrants and promote Chinese culture. Despite being almost eighty, he is still concerned about the memorial for the head tax. The name of every Chinese who paid the head tax, and the apology issued by Prime Minister Harper are to be etched on the memorial. The Peace Tower, a building project he has been working on wholeheartedly, will be completed by the end of 2012. Upon completion, it will service new immigrants to Canada. On June 8 of this year, Dr. Du was honoured by the mainstream community. He was presented with the "Local Hero Award" by the Canadian Urban Institute in Toronto.

Dr. Du has fulfilled his lifelong dream to search for justice, dignity and respect for the Chinese Canadians here.