



## 無心插柳 一路長紅 蘇凌峰由為人師表轉做傳媒人的 心路歷程

人生的際遇無奇不有，有些人刻意在求學時期即預定日後想幹什麼，為了達到目的，朝著既定的方向努力；但是有些人是在偶然的情況下碰到機會，本想抱著姑且一試的心理，但沒想到一試即愛上這一行，難捨難棄。傳媒電視界的蘇凌峰(Stanley So)自認是屬於後者。

提起蘇凌峰，來自香港年長一輩的移民很少不知道他的，一九八九年民運之前，他曾是香港無線電視台TVB最受歡迎的新聞主播，九零年移民多倫多之後，最早曾在「中文電視」任職過，後來轉到「北美影城」擔任節目製作，「中文電視」取得加拿大全國性的執照後被港商馮永發收購，改名為「新時代電視」，聘蘇凌峰為新聞總監，1998年Stanley被當時的多元文化電視台(CFMT)挖角，擔任晚間粵語新聞主播，CFMT後來改名為OMNI，蘇凌峰一直留在主播的職位上，兢兢業業，除了休年假以外，逢週一至週五，每晚九時至十時的粵語新聞時間，觀眾總會轉台到OMNI 2，收看他主播的新聞節目，十年如一日。

### 培訓結束 應聘兼職當主播

蘇凌峰自師範學院畢業後，被分發到港島華富村的「魯班小學」任教，同時擔任訓導主任的職務，教書這一行雖然不富裕，但香港教師的待遇還是不錯的，而且每天面對一群天真無邪的學童，也是開心的事，何況自己還頗受學生的歡迎。當時香港商業電台登報開設廣播訓練班，「我報讀的目的是為了訓練口才，並沒有入行的打算，培訓的時間大約是半年，最後結訓時大約有卅來人。結訓後突然收到『佳藝電視』的電話，邀請我試鏡，並錄

蘇凌峰  
Mr. Stanley So

取為兼職的電視新聞主播。」經過考慮，決定仍以教書為主，電視台的工作為兼職，白天教書，下班後的黃昏時間到晚間九時再到九龍一間小學擔任夜校教師，晚上9:30夜校教完書之後，再乘的士趕到電視台播新聞，10:30播完新聞，回到家已接近午夜時分，每天連趕三場，雖然辛苦，但生活相當充實。

「電視台知道我是兼職，但認為我的專長應該朝廣電方面發展，遊說我轉為全職，由於這是一大轉變，加上電視台的人事比較複雜，風浪亦大，長女已出生，這種事情必須與妻子商量。」蘇凌峰回憶入行當教師時的每月工資是港幣675元，在加入佳藝電視台前，銀行存摺內只有300元，還好妻子本身有一份穩定的工作，但她認為既然獲得電視台看重，不妨嘗試一下新的行業，於是在1975年加入「佳藝電視」為全職人員，擔任記者兼新聞主播。1978年8月，佳藝電視突然關門，許多職員措手不及，不知發生甚麼事，但蘇凌峰自認為十分幸運，因為就在佳藝關門之前的一個月，他已被無線挖角過檔，簽約決定9月1日起上班，時間上非常巧合，他完全沒有失業的徬徨和壓力。

#### 佳藝關門轉入TVB

在TVB一待就是12年，1989年爆發的民運事件，是他人生另一個轉捩點，當時每天最熱門的新聞就是北京天安門發生的民運風潮，由於他身為電視台新聞主播，責無旁貸必須將手頭的新聞播出去，但中國政府不明白電視台的運作，以為他有意炒作，將他列入黑名單。他覺得既然已被列入黑名單，心中已有陰影，對自己日後的發展可能不利，而且自己亦覺得97後香港的前景不明朗，關心兩個女兒日後的教育，再加上90年香港正掀起移民潮，許多朋友已移民加拿大。他在1989年民運之前已申請移民，天安門事件更強化了他移民的決心。Stanley說：「當時TVB曾作全港的民意調查，我被評為最受歡迎的電視新聞主播，當時公司並沒有公佈這項調查結果，是公司其他同事告訴我的。但是這並不影

響我移民的決定。」

「TVB尊重我移民的決定，最不願意看到的是優秀的員工跳槽，當公司知道我真的是移民多倫多，終於放心。我是申請『技術移民』這一項的，在這個欄目內，我和妻子都得到滿分，相當順利。」在動身之前，Stanley曾致電多倫多「中文電視」的新聞部門，對方表明歡迎他移民加入「中文電視」，並言明從90年9月1日起上班，這對他而言算是相當幸運。許多人選擇移民，來了之後卻徬徨無主，找不到工作，或者為了生活被迫改行。蘇凌峰說：「1978年我加入TVB是9月1日開始上班，1990年來多倫多加入中文電視也正好是9月1日開始上班，而這一天正好是記者節。」

談到電子傳媒這一行的酸甜苦辣，蘇凌峰有頗多的感觸。「我是師範學院畢業的，本來以教書為本行，進入傳媒界是個偶然，記得最初進入佳藝電視擔任新聞主播兼記者，由於我不是學新聞出身的，入職的薪資亦比其他員工高，有時難免被人『排擠』，面對這些『白眼』，我只有更加努力把工作做好，知道自己的不足，多學習，多請教別人。」他將自己每天播出的新聞稿帶回家，用錄音機錄下之後與妻子一起放來重聽，檢討有何缺點需要改進。日久之後與同事熟絡了，許多同事才真正認識他的為人。

#### 移民初期抗拒回流誘惑

由於蘇凌峰當年在香港電視新聞廣播這一行的名氣相當響亮，所以儘管移了民，仍然有行家遠道從香港過來遊說他「回流」。「1991年是我面對重大掙扎的一年，有位以前的同事正籌備在香港開辦新的有線電視台，專程飛來遊說我返港效力，香港無線和亞視電視台亦向我招手，坦白說，誘惑相當大，一下子讓我亢奮起來，憧憬著東山再起的風光，但是當我冷靜下來重新思考了兩個星期，並與妻子商量過後，我終於捨棄回港的念頭，決

定留下。我不願看到『家不成家』的樣子，堅持一家人共同面對苦與樂，做一個有承擔的丈夫和父親。我也知道留下來必須改變心態，前面的路是漫長的。」

蘇凌峰坦承，移民最初的兩三年心情一直靜不下來，除了與家人相處的時間以外，常感到孤觸寂寞，需要克服。「我在中文電視做了兩年多的新聞主播，1993年中，本地華人開設『北美影城』，由於開出的條件不錯，我轉到『北美影城』上班，這間公司不是電視台，我的工作負責拍攝有關移民的專輯『楓葉錄』，賣到香港和大陸播放，也協助公司辦些展覽。」1995年，香港的馮氏家族投得加拿大廣播電視管理局(CRTC)的牌照，將原來的「中文電視」改名為「新時代電視」，蘇凌峰擔任新聞總監，三年後，CFMT多元文化電視台每晚粵語新聞主播王成偉因就讀神學院而辭職，電視台希望找一位有公信力的主播兼新聞節目的主持人，CFMT高層當時認為蘇凌峰是不二人選，條件談妥，Stanley遂從「新時代」過檔。

#### 由「新時代」過檔CFMT多元文化台

在多元文化電視台已度過十三個寒暑，早幾年還親自訪問過不少華社知名人物，製作成56集的「真情對話」，相當受歡迎。他認為世上沒有任何一種行業是100%滿意的，「只要盡其在我，對得起自己的良心就夠了。」這些年來，除了在電視台的工作以外，Stanley成為推動「燃動青年」- Across U-Hub 這個組織的核心成員，花不少時間協助多倫多大學的方偉晶教授推動活動項目。他說「燃動青年」- Across U-Hub 是社區組織，構想是源於香港的「突破海外使團」，後來有人建議改名，使其更具有本地的特色，宗旨是希望提供年輕人一個活動平台，引導年輕人除了校園生活以外，還有機會透過不同的節目和學習過程，結交社會上其他的良朋益友，循正確的人生方向，過健康的群體生活，培養年輕人開放自信的性格，以及領導的才能。「燃動青年」-

Across U-Hub 成員除了來自中港台的華裔以外，還與南亞裔、韓裔、越裔年輕人舉辦活動，每年舉辦領袖訓練營，成立已超過10年，Stanley長時期擔任「燃動青年」的義工，付出不少心力。

蘇凌峰雖然學的不是新聞專業，但經過數十年的歷練，早已熟悉這一行。他認為香港傳媒搏殺的精神令人欽佩，競爭幾乎是白熱化。記者應該對傳媒工作有熱忱，不應被動的等上頭派工，應該自己找題材；換個角度說，記者應該主動發掘新聞，不是坐著等新聞。他承認作為中文傳媒有時碰到一些敏感的問題，難免在處理上有些顧慮，例如是否要從「政治正確」著眼等。碰到這一類的新聞時，他的原則是盡量保持平衡報導。

#### 欣賞加拿大爭做義工的風氣

加拿大是個義工風氣很盛的國家，不同於香港一些大公司不讓屬下參與任何公益團體做義工，這種狹隘思想和專權的做法，使香港成為一個人情淡薄的社會，而這兒上至大集團的CEO都願意為慈善食堂的窮人送餐。「我移民加拿大轉眼已21年，當初選擇移民的一個主要原因是為了兩個女兒的教育，如今她們都已長大成人，大女兒在懷雅遜大學學了傳播以後返港工作，現擔任網上新聞的記者；小女兒大學畢業後在本地一所教學醫院擔任放射治療師。由於她們受到加拿大社會風氣的影響，對社會充滿愛心，每當看到這一點，我和妻子都會暗自慶幸當初選擇移民是走對了路。」



1986年在TVB擔任新聞主播。  
Stanley as TVB news anchor in  
Hong Kong in 1986.



1981年在香港TVB任職時的採訪團隊。  
Stanley with his TVB news crew in 1981.



1999年參與聖約翰救傷隊。  
Joined St John's Ambulance Canada  
in 1999.



1992年主持為多倫多病童醫院籌款。  
Hosting Toronto Sick Kids Hospital's  
fundraising in 1992.



現任多倫多 OMNI 2 新聞主播  
Currently Rogers OMNI 2's news anchor.



積極推動燃動青年活動。  
Stanley at Across U-hub's  
fundraising event.



工作之餘，夫妻結伴賞楓。  
Enjoying Ontario's fall colours with wife Helen.



一家四口天倫之樂。  
A family picture.



## Mr. Stanley So

*It is true that life often takes unexpected turns. Some people make their plans while they are still in school and work towards their goal industriously, while others, taking advantage of unexpected opportunities, fall in love with their new career. Television news anchor Stanley So belongs to the latter group.*

*Most immigrants of an earlier era from Hong Kong have heard of Stanley So. Before 1989, he was one of the most popular television news anchors in Hong Kong. Since immigrating to Toronto in 1990, he had worked for Chinavision, and later as a program producer at North American Studio. A few years later, Stanley So was hired as Chief News Editor at Fairchild Television. In 1998 Stanley was recruited by Multicultural television CFMT, and became the evening news anchor for Cantonese news. CFMT subsequently changed its name to OMNI. Every week night from 9 pm to 10 pm, it is a Chinese family ritual that everyone watches the news delivered by Stanley So on OMNI 2.*

Stanley graduated from Sir Robert Black College of Education and took a teaching job afterwards. Although teaching was generally not a high paying job, the salaries of Hong Kong teachers were quite good. In addition it was rewarding to teach a class of innocent children, especially when one was a popular teacher. So it was by chance that Stanley saw an ad in the paper for broadcasting training. 'I enrolled because I wanted to improve my oral skills. I had no plans to switch to a new career. The training took six months, and at the end there were about thirty people left in the class. When the course was completed, I received a phone call from Commercial Television, inviting me for a tryout. Following the tryout, I was offered a part time position as a news anchor. After much consideration, I decided that teaching would stay as my main profession, and that the work at the television studio

would be supplementary. I had two teaching jobs at that time for day and evening, and then rushed to the television studio for 9:30 pm news. Having three jobs on the same day was difficult, but at the same time I found it very fulfilling.'

Stanley adds, 'My superior at Commercial Television knew that I was keeping two jobs, but felt that I should further develop my potential in broadcasting. They persuaded me to take on the job full time. Since this was a big change, and a job in the media would be less secure with more complex people issues, I had to discuss with my wife. At that time, we just had our oldest daughter.' Fortunately his wife held a steady job, and was supportive of Stanley trying out a new career. In 1975, he became a full time employee as a reporter as well as news anchor. In August 1978, Commercial Television suddenly closed its doors to its shocked employees. But Stanley was fortunate in that a month before it closed its doors, he was recruited by TVB to start a new job there on September 1. Stanley felt that only through fortuitous circumstances that he did not end up being unemployed.

Stanley stayed at TVB for twelve years. The Tiananmen Square incident on June 4<sup>th</sup> 1989 was a turning point in his life. At that time, the student movement for political reform was the hottest news item. Since he was the news anchor at the television studio, he had to report what was happening in China. The Chinese Government treated him as an instigator, and put him on the black list. Stanley felt that being on the black list would be disadvantageous for his career. The future of Hong Kong was uncertain after 1997, and he was concerned about the education for his two daughters. In 1990 many people were moving overseas, including many of his friends to Canada. At that time he had already applied for immigration to Canada, and the Tiananmen incident only reinforced his determination to leave. Stanley says, "There

was a survey by TVB that concluded that I was the most popular TV news anchor in Hong Kong. Although they did not publicize it at the time, I knew the survey results through my colleagues, but this did not change my decision to leave.

TVB respected my decision. Although they did not like to see me leave, they were less concerned because I was not leaving to join a competitor. We applied for immigration through the technical skills category, and both my wife and I scored well on that.” Before moving, Stanley had called the Chinavision News section, and they had welcomed him to join. It was really a lucky strike as most immigrants have to begin looking for a job after landing, or have to switch careers. Stanley says, “I joined TVB in 1978 on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and I also began my job here in Canada on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1990, and that day happens to be Journalists’ day.”

Stanley has mixed emotions about the television media industry. ‘I graduated from teachers’ college, and teaching was what I was trained for. I only became a broadcaster by chance. I remember when I first joined TVB as a news anchor and reporter with a higher salary than others, I was ostracized because I did not have any formal news reporting background. To overcome this, I was determined to do my work well, learn from others, and improve in my areas of deficiency.’ He would always bring home the news script, listen to his own recording again with his wife, and review where he could improve. It was only after some time that Stanley’s colleagues got to know what kind of person he really was and became his friends.

Since Stanley had made a name for himself in the television industry in Hong Kong, many of his colleagues tried to persuade him to return. Stanley says, ‘1991 was my year of struggle. One of my colleagues was starting a new television station in Hong Kong, and flew to Toronto

to persuade me to return to help him. I also got offers from other television stations. Frankly, the temptation to return was huge, and I was really excited, imagining that I would be reclaiming my glory. But after I cooled down and thought carefully about it over a period of two weeks, I gave up the thought of returning to Hong Kong. I did not want to split up my family. I wanted to be a responsible husband, and father, and together with my family face the future, be it good or bad? I knew that I must change my way of thinking if I were to stay in Canada, since the road ahead was sure to be long.’

Stanley admits that the first two or three years after immigrating he was often agitated. Except when he was spending time with his family, he felt alone and lonely. ‘I was a news anchor at Chinavision for over two years. In 1993, I left for North American Studio. It was not a television station, and my work was to develop a program on immigrants, and sell the programs to Hong Kong and China to be broadcast. I also helped the company with exhibitions’. In 1995, Stanley joined Fairchild TV as chief news editor. Three years later an opportunity arose at CFMT, a Multicultural Television channel, when its evening Cantonese news anchor left the post, and Stanley was hired on as the news anchor and senior news editor.

Now it has been thirteen years since Stanley joined the CFMT multicultural television (now named OMNI). He was proud to have the opportunity to interview many well known people in the local Chinese community. Stanley produced a series of 56 interviews: ‘Face to Face with Stanley So’, which were quite popular. Stanley feels that there is no career which is 100% satisfactory. ‘I think one should always try one’s best, and if one’s conscience is clear, that would be sufficient’.

All these years, aside from working for television, Stanley spent considerable time helping Professor Eric Fong of the University of

Toronto promote Across U-hub (AUH), an organization that was based on the concept of Breakthrough Overseas Mission from Hong Kong. The idea is to provide a hub for youth activities outside school, so that young people have opportunities to cultivate friendship with other youths and develop a healthy social life. Through working with mentors and other youths, they also develop self esteem and leadership. Across U-hub members come from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and they have joint activities with youths from Southeast Asia, Korea and Vietnam. This organization is now ten years old, and Stanley has been a volunteer for this organization from the beginning.

Stanley is now the vice-chair of the board of directors. He works together with his colleagues to set policies and the direction of AUH, exchanging ideas and experiences on how to deal with young people, and listening to their stories. In addition, Stanley volunteers as a speaker to talk about his life experiences in seminars for the young people, serving as a role model and a resource for them. Every year AUH holds activities like the City Mosaic and a summer leadership camp. Stanley is also the co-chair of the fundraising committee, and promotes AUH tirelessly to everyone around him, holding an annual event to raise funds for the organization.

Although Stanley did not study television journalism, after so many years of training on the job, he knows this field inside out. He feels the 'can-do' spirit of the Hong Kong reporters is very admirable. To rise above the red-hot competition, journalists should be enthusiastic about their work and not wait for work assignments from their supervisors. They should be finding items of interest on their own. Looking at it from another angle, reporters should be digging up news themselves, and not wait for news to come to them. He admits sometimes the Chinese media would come upon controversial topics which they have

to be sensitive about and be politically correct. Stanley feels the best way is to always provide balanced reporting for all news.

Canada is a country where volunteerism is popular, unlike in Hong Kong, where some large companies forbid their employees to participate as volunteers for the community. This type of narrow minded and authoritarian thinking has turned Hong Kong into a cold-hearted society. Here even the CEOs of large conglomerates are willing to deliver meals for the poor. 'I have been in Canada for twenty-one years now, and my main reason for emigrating at that time was because of my daughters' education, and now they are grown up. My oldest daughter studied broadcasting in Ryerson University and she is now working in Hong Kong as an internet news reporter. My younger daughter is a radiation therapist after graduating from university. Since they have been influenced by their Canadian upbringing, they love to volunteer in their community. When we see this, my wife and I are always glad that we made the right decision to immigrate to Canada.'