

陳志動 H Capt (N) Tung Chan

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動力不竭 傳奇寫不完

如要列舉一生中最富傳奇色彩的事,陳志動笑言「真正的傳奇 還未發生」,因他眼前的職務,如加拿大國立移民博物館的董 事會主席,正是譜寫中的傳奇。而擁有學歷、經歷和閱歷的 他,在移居加國近40年的歲月裡,亦是憑著一股追求真、善、 美的動力,在政、商、文化、教育界、以致傳媒,譜寫出一個 又一個傳奇。

三年前從中僑互助會(卑詩省最大社會服務團體之一)行 政總裁一職卸任後,陳志動正式踏上退休路,然而退而不休的 他,又獲任命重要的職務,包括加拿大國立移民博物館的董事 會主席。這博物館的所在地--哈利法克斯21號碼頭,曾是100萬 位移民入境的地方,以往只收藏有關歐裔移民的紀實,如今卻 延伸至來自世界各地的移民,當然少不了亞裔移民。在他眼 中,這是饒有意義的工作,也是刻下他正在締造的傳奇和最重 視的工作。

2010年,他又被委任為加拿大皇家海軍榮譽上校,成為加國史上第一位華裔海軍榮譽上校。其職責猶如一位親善大使,務求搞好社區關係,尤其在新移民社區,聽取意見,加強招募工作。自上任以來,陳志動曾安排華人社區領袖參觀海軍戰艦,開創史無前例的「社區活動」。

「其實我每做一件事,都很重視,並且全力以赴,做到最好。」他不卑不亢地道出自己的許多個「第一」,包括全加第一位香港出生的華裔市議員(1990年獲選為溫哥華市議員)、第一位華裔成為全加五大銀行之一的道明銀行的副總裁、聯同其他年輕華裔加人於溫哥華的CFRO-FM 102.7創立加

國有史以來第一個和至今唯一以華裔加人為本的英語電台節目《Pender Guy》、任全國唯一集警察、消防及醫療急救的緊急通訊中心(電子緊急應變通訊有限公司)第一任董事會主席、創立第一個專為華人而設的講藝學會(Centennial Toastmasters Club)。

如何事事做到第一,並且兼顧商業、政治、文化、教育、 傳媒、社區,在領導層面發揮影響力?陳志動以他的信念作 答:真、善、美(A.G.E.-Authentic, Generous, Excellent)。這 是他在起伏人生路上領悟與追求的境界。

從一無所有到一日千籌

出生於香港新界西頁一個小村莊,父親是村中「積善小學」的校長;陳志動自小從父親的教誨已學到人與人之間要有互助精神,不時做義工替村民寫信。由於家境清貧,有7兄弟姊妹要養育,他為了幫補家計,中學畢業後即跑到荷蘭去打工,在中餐館做服務生,一幹就三年,賺下一筆錢回到香港。那時正值股市火紅,他加入了當時九龍証券交易所的一間證券公司做出市員,身家隨即暴漲,誰知一個股災襲來,一夜之間變得一窮二白。

茫然之際,柳暗花明;原來在荷蘭工作期間申請移民加拿 大獲批下來,於是在1974年22歲那年,收拾心情,踏上了新大 陸,來到加國再起步。初時於溫市中心的Terminal City Club任 侍應生,一邊打工賺錢、一邊在卑詩大學修讀社會學學士課 程。

唸這一科,是出於對社會的關注,因此抵溫數個月後,他 便開始在前一年成立的中僑互助會當義工,帶領一些活力長者 探望另一些不能外出的長者。這便開展他移民30多年來從未間斷的義務工作,先後服務了40多個不同機構及社團;期間對加國社會和華人社區的了解亦日漸加深,開啟了他參與公務和投入社區的路,直至在2006年當上中僑互助會的行政總裁,全職投入社會服務。

在任期間,他致力把中僑變得更多元化,並且從一個華人 社團演變成為一個「帶有華人色彩的加拿大社團」,這是基於 他多年來經歷加國文化,從體會與成長過程中認定的目標。他 深信,在這個崇尚平等的國家,擁有歸屬感就會讓你不再妄自 菲薄、將自己歸到邊緣群體,而將他人視為「主流」。

對於「主流」二字,他有其獨特見解:「我只會說『華裔』和『非華裔』,其實我們每一個人都是主流。」移民若能摒除過客心態,培養對加拿大的歸屬感,便能融於社會,而這亦需要延伸自己僅是華人的身份,接受一個新角色:作為加拿大華人。

自創一主流

天生熱衷於開創新事物,且渴望透過支持社區服務機構發揮影響力;陳志動在人生路上不斷力求創新,並以這精神突破 艱難。

初到加國時,他自覺學歷不足,英文又不好,於是立志學 好英語、了解文化。

「要融入這個社會,最重要是懂得溝通。你要有口才,懂得表達自己。」

有四年時間,他曾在華人人口甚少的基隆拿(Kelowna)工作,可說是被逼融入社會,尤其有時連笑話也聽不懂,鬧出了

不少笑話,令他更有決心學好英文,而他下的苦功實在不少; 有好幾年時間,他每天都堅持跟著報導新聞的播音員重複英語。日子有功,加上熱衷了解加國社會各個層面、廣泛參與社 區活動;使他逐漸變得幾乎跟甚麼人都可以無所不談。其後在 競選市議員之前,還投入了兩千多元來糾正發音,一改自己的 港式腔調。

他自問並非天生就很會聊的人;中學時代的他是個靦腆害 羞的人。中學畢業時,好友在同學錄上贈言:「陳志動,他給 人的印象是「不動」,甚至連說話也三緘其口。」他的口才, 是他練就而成的。

1990年,陳志動暫別道明銀行位高薪優的分行經理職位, 站出來競選溫哥華市議員,隨即當選。「我當時其實只想建立 一個例子:如果像我這樣一個一度窮困和英語能力有限的移 民,也可以這樣做,那麼任何人也可以,並且應該這樣做。」

直至1993年為抽空陪伴家人而宣佈不再競選連任。期間他 以每月輪更制與其他市議員輪流擔任副市長,對社區及市政更 加投入和關切。這份「有需要我挺身而出」、「多人做的我不 做」的原則,貫徹於他做人處世遇上的抉擇。

一紙真言、一輩子積善

談到處世之道,他引用父親在他出門往加拿大前給他的一紙訓誡:「毋道人之短、毋說己之長…行之苟有恆、久久自芬芳…」父親亦教他做人要「中方外圓」:內裡有原則、外在要圓滑。這幾句話他銘記於心。

陳志動的成就,沒有止於2002和2012年先後獲頒英女王登 基金禧及鑽禧勛章,嘉許他對社會所作的貢獻,以及今年7月 剛獲University Canada West頒發的榮譽法律博士學位。

雖然退休後享受閒暇,愛讀書、游泳、旅行;花了108日 乘坐郵輪環遊世界。然而,回饋社會向是陳志動的生活方式, 是以他定期飛往位於哈利法克斯的移民博物館開會。此外也是 溫哥華基金會和瑞克·漢森研究所(加拿大脊髓損傷研究機 構)的董事局成員。

他還訂下未來的目標,乃是促進不同族裔的社群在機關層面的融合,使不同文化自然而然地彼此融合。其中一項同樣重視的工作是透過加拿大經濟教育基金會(Canadian Foundation of Economic Education) 在社區內推廣新移民教育。

另一方面,他希望本地傳媒多點正面報導華人事物,他既 曾在本地中英文媒體時事評論員身份,評論涉及社會、多元文 化和移民問題,也曾在溫哥華太陽報發表定期客藉社論以及在 其華語和英語報網內開設自己的博客網頁,藉著傳媒影響力、 引起迴響與共鳴。

他給下一代有這樣的鼓舞:「不分中外、無分彼此、不要 以族裔文化背景作為界線,也不要計較背景;作為加拿大一份 子,不但生活上,在思想上也應是一份子。」

他又提議青年人找一位導師(Mentor),以積極思維向前看,不斷學習,追求真善美。

如此這般人生路,陳志動又豈能停步;若要他停止的話, 定然是「止於至善」。



一家同遊希臘雅典 Quality moment with family at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece

與太太Shirley 和總督Stephen Point伉儷 在夏威夷

Lieutenant Governor Stephen Point and Her Honour Gwen Point joining Tung and wife Shirley while visiting Hawaii.



與前溫市市長金寶爾 於華埠為 參選宣傳(1990)

Campaigning in Vancouver Chinatown with former Mayor Gordon Campbell (1990)



於亞洲發展銀行會議致詞 Addressing delegates at Asian Development Bank Conference



以會長身份向無黨派協會成員致詞 (1995) Addressing members of Vancouver Civic Non Partisan Association (NPA) as president (1995)

與道明同儕一起登上萬里長城 Climbing the Great Wall of China with fellow TD Bank executives



在盛會中喜見英女皇二世、 菲臘親王及總理哈珀 At a reception with Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip and Prime Minister Harper



於溫尼泊母艦上向亞裔社區領袖致詞 Addressing a gathering of Asian community leaders and media on board of HMCS Winnipeg



與現任省長簡蕙芝在籌款盛事喜相逢 Sharing a smile with B.C. Premier Christy Clark at a fundraising ball and a S.U.C.C.E.S.S. charity walk.



與前卑詩省長金寶爾新春聚首 Sharing a Chinese New Year smile with former B.C. Premier Campbell



與前總理克雷蒂安喜相逢 Cheers with former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien



與總理哈珀一起訪華 Visiting China with Prime Minister Harper

Tung Chan

Asked to tell the most legendary story in his life, Tung Chan smiles and says the real legend has yet to happen. He explains that in his current post as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, he hopes to create a legend of all legends. In the almost forty years since Tung immigrated to Canada, he has always tried to be genuine, generous and be excellent in everything that he does, no matter which sector he is working in, be it civic, cultural, business or educational. With his vast knowledge and years of experience, he creates one legendary story after another.

Three years ago, Tung retired from the Chief Executive Officer position of S.U.C.C.E.S.S, one of the largest social services agencies in British Columbia. But there is no rest for Tung in his retirement. Soon he was given a very important task, to be the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, located in Halifax, once the entry point of over one million immigrants. It used to house historical artifacts of only European immigrants to Canada, but since it became a national museum in November 2010, its mandate has been expanded to include immigrants from the rest of the world, including Asian immigrants. In Tung's eyes, this meaningful work is the basis for another legend in the making.

In 2010, Tung was appointed as an Honorary Captain of the Royal Canadian Navy, becoming the first Canadian of Chinese heritage to be given that honour in the Navy's 100 year history. His job is like that of a goodwill ambassador, to improve relations between the Navy and the community, and strengthen recruitment among new immigrants. Since he took on this job, Tung has arranged groups of Chinese-Canadian community leaders to tour navy ships, a historical first as a 'community activity'.

"I take each task very seriously and I always try my utmost to do the best I can."

Tung lists a few of his 'firsts' matter-of-factly: first Vancouver councillor who was born and educated in Hong Kong (elected to the City of Vancouver Council in 1990), first Chinese-Canadian to be appointed to the position of Vice President at the TD Bank Financial Group, the inaugural Board Chair for E-Comm Emergency Communications, an integrated emergency communication services organization for police, fire and ambulance services for the Lower Mainland of BC. He helped to establish the Centennial Toastmasters Club, the first toastmasters club focusing on Chinese-Canadians. In addition, in 1976, he and other young Chinese-Canadians, created the first and only English language radio program (Pender Guy) in Canada for and by Chinese-Canadians at the CFRO 102.7 FM radio station.

How can Tung be the first in so many things, and still be influential with business, civic, cultural and educational leaders alike, as well as the media and the community? Tung answers with his beliefs in A.G.E. (Authentic真, Generous善, Excellent美). This is what he has learned throughout his life and what he pursues constantly.

Born in a small village in Sai Kung, an area in the New Territories of Hong Kong, where his father was the principal of a small elementary school in the village, Tung learned from his father that people needed to help each other. As a youth, he volunteered to write letters for other villagers. After graduating from high school, Tung went to Holland to work as a waiter to help supplement his father's income for the family. He returned to Hong Kong after three years, having made and saved a tidy sum of money. At that time, the Hong Kong stock market was red hot, and Tung joined a securities firm at the Kowloon Stocks Exchange. He made a small fortune almost instantly, but lost all of it soon after when the market crashed overnight.

Just at the time when he felt discouraged, a new door opened to him. He had applied to immigrate to Canada while working in Holland, and the application was now approved. So at the age of 22 in 1974, Tung landed in Canada to start anew. In the beginning, he waited tables at the Terminal City Club in downtown Vancouver in order to pay for tuition fees for his Bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of British Columbia.

The reason he chose social studies was because of his interest in the well being of the society as a whole. A few months after he arrived in Vancouver, he started volunteering at S.U.C.C.E.S.S, which had just been established the year before. He took seniors to visit other homebound seniors. This launched a lifetime of volunteer work for Tung, who gives his spare time freely to over forty different organizations and community groups. His understanding of the broader Canadian society and Chinese-Canadian community deepened, propelling him into a public and community career, cumulating in 2006 when he became the CEO of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. full-time.

In this position, Tung focused his energy on making the organization more multicultural, changing it from a Chinese-Canadian community organization to a Canadian community organization with Chinese characteristics. This is because after many years of experience immersed in Canadian society, he deeply believes that becoming fully Canadian should be the target of our growth as a community. In a country that values equality, if all immigrants develop a stronger sense of belonging, then immigrants will not view others as 'mainstream' and themselves as marginalized communities.

Tung has his own views for the word 'mainstream', "[If forced to differentiate between the Chinese-Canadian community and the broader community], I would rather refer to people as Chinese heritage or non Chinese heritage, because all of us are a part of the 'mainstream'." If every

Chinese immigrant ceases to think of themselves merely as a guest in Canada, but to develop a sense of belonging, they can integrate into society faster. We need to recognize that once we have immigrated, we are no longer just Chinese persons, but Canadians of Chinese descent.

Tung is keen to do new things, and he wants to influence others through supporting community service organizations. He overcomes obstacles with a strong desire to seek new ventures in life.

When he first arrived in Canada, he felt that he did not have enough education and his English was inadequate, so he resolved to improve his English. He also felt he needed to understand local culture more. For four years he went to work in Kelowna, where there were very few Chinese. Initially his English was so poor that he would not only be lost in the jokes bandied around him; but also created a few jokes on himself. Determined to improve his English, he persisted in listening to and repeating after the daily news broadcaster for quite a number of years. He also got involved in many community activities to understand every level of Canadian society, slowly getting to the point that he feels comfortable in engaging in small talk with almost anyone. Before he ran for the post of city councillor, he even spent two thousand dollars to learn to reduce his Chinese accent.

Tung says that he was not naturally gregarious. In high school, he was known to be timid and shy. Upon graduation, his good friend wrote in the yearbook, "Tung Chan –not only does he not move; he does not even open his mouth much', a play on his Chinese name 'Tung', which means 'to move'. His eloquence has come from training through much hard work.

In 1990, Tung temporarily left his job as a TD Bank branch manager to run for a position on the city council, which he won handily. "I thought I would set an example, that if someone like me who had limited English

skills coming from a poor background could win an election, then everyone can do it and should do it." Tung was councillor until 1993 when he decided not to seek re-election so that he could spend more time with his family. During his term as city councillor, he took turns with other councillors to be Deputy Mayor. He was focused on civic and community affairs. "I will raise my hand if no one wants to take on a challenge. I will keep my hand down if others want to do it." - This is a principle that governs how he lives his life and how he makes his decisions.

Talking about his principles, he quotes his father who handed him a page of aphorisms on the eve of his departure for Canada, "Don't talk about others' shortcomings. Don't boast about your own strengths...... Persevere in everything you do. Let others know you through your actions." His father also taught him to be a person round on the outside and square on the inside. In other words, stay true to your principles but be suave always. He remembers those words to this day.

Tung's successes have been well recognized. In 2002 he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award and in 2012 he was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award. This July he was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from University Canada West.

Following retirement Tung enjoys reading, swimming and travelling in his leisure time, taking 108 days on a world cruise several years ago. But serving the community has always been Tung's passion and lifestyle. These days, he would fly to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 regularly for meetings. Aside from that he is also on the boards of the Vancouver Foundation, and the Rick Hansen Institute.

He has set an objective for himself: to bring about the integration of different cultural communities at an institutional level, allowing different cultural groups to flourish together. One of his tasks is to promote education for new immigrants through the Canadian Foundation of Economic Education.

On the other hand, he hopes the local media will report more of the positive aspects of the Chinese-Canadian community. He was frequently asked by the Chinese and English language media to comment on social, multicultural and immigration related issues. He used to contribute regularly to the Op-ed page of the Vancouver Sun and has a blog page there, leveraging the news media effectively to further his objectives.

For the next generation of Chinese-Canadians, he has these words," Don't differentiate between Chinese and non-Chinese. Never think 'Us' versus 'Them'. Don't use ethnic culture or background as a dividing line. As a Canadian, you have to live and think like a Canadian."

He also suggests young people find a mentor, stay positive, never stop learning and try to be genuine, generous and reach for a standard of excellence in everything they do. In other words, A.G.E. (Authentic真, Generous善, Excellent美).

With these ideals and objectives and so much to offer, how can Tung Chan stop getting involved? Indeed, he will only stop when the world is perfect.