



Proclamation

Chinese People's Railroad Day July 1st, 2023

WHEREAS Chinese pioneers came to Canada in the 1880s to help build the railroad through the Canadian Rockies, thus uniting Canada from coast to coast, both politically and geographically; and

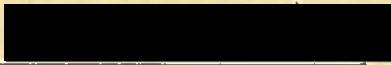
WHEREAS of the 17,000 men who came from the Province of Guangdong, China, over 4,000 lost their lives due to unsafe working conditions, landslides, and premature blastings; and

WHEREAS after being recruited to build the continental railroad, the Chinese were banned from Canada through the *Chinese Immigration Act* (known as the *Chinese Exclusion Act*). This discriminatory law took effect on July 1, 1923 and banned Chinese immigrants for 24 years until its repeal in 1947. During this exclusionary period, many wives and children in China were separated from the Chinese men in Canada. With the formal apology by the Government of Canada on June 22, 2006, for the unjust legislation of the *Chinese Exclusion Act*, Prime Minister Stephen Harper remarked that the Chinese Railroad Workers and the many generations of Chinese Canadians are great nation builders, uniting Canada politically, geographically, and economically; and

WHEREAS this year marks the 100th anniversary of the *Chinese Exclusion Act*;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Mayor Mike Savage, on behalf of Halifax Regional Council do hereby proclaim July 1st, 2023 as **Chinese People's Railroad Day** throughout HRM.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia
this 1st day of July 2023


Mike Savage
Mayor

