



For Release
March 28, 2002

VANCOUVER AGREEMENT BRIGHTENS CHINATOWN'S FUTURE WITH NEW LIGHTS

Vancouver, B.C. – Vancouver Agreement partners will mark the Chinese *Day of Business Prosperity*, March 28th, by flicking the switch on 90 new historical lampposts, lighting the way to a brighter economic future for Vancouver Chinatown.

Western Economic Diversification Canada is providing \$420,000 to the Chinatown lighting project under the Vancouver Agreement. The lighting project is a cornerstone of the Chinatown revitalization program and will make the streets brighter, safer and more welcoming for residents and visitors.

"The new lampposts are a clear symbol of Chinatown's brightening future," said Stephen Owen, Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Indian Affairs and Northern Development). "This project shows how the Government of Canada is working through the Vancouver Agreement to support economic development in this community."

"This is an excellent example of three levels of government and the community coming together to revitalize a historic area of the city," said George Abbott, provincial minister of community, aboriginal and women's services. "This lighting project will attract more visitors and customers, more business people and partners to invest in the social and economic development of Chinatown."

"This exciting boost to the Downtown Eastside's Chinese community demonstrates our commitment to revitalizing the neighborhood's economy," said Mayor Philip Owen. "The Chinatown Lighting Project is a valuable initiative supported by government partners in the Vancouver Agreement and the Chinese community."

"The new lampposts are a sign of support by the federal government, the province and the city for the committee's strategy to revitalize historical Chinatown," said Glen J. Wong, Chairman of Chinatown's Revitalization Committee. "Vancouver Chinatown predicts that this partnership will lead to greater prosperity for all of Vancouver. We thank the people involved and look forward to their continued support."

Signed March 9, 2000, the Vancouver Agreement is a five-year agreement among the federal, provincial and municipal governments focused on improving economic, social and cultural prosperity in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

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Previously announced funding and support for other beautification and economic revitalization projects within Chinatown include the Chinatown Millennium Gate, Chinatown Memorial Square, Shanghai Alley and commemorative bell, and the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Courtyard upgrade.

The Vancouver Agreement's commitment to economic development and prosperity continues to be demonstrated by the ongoing investment in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside neighbourhoods.

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Background information is available online at:
www.wd.gc.ca/eng/mediacentre/2002/mar28-01b.html

This news release is available at: www.wd.gc.ca/eng/mediacentre/2002/mar28-01a.html

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