



## DRAGON BALL 2016

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Presented By:   全心為您

Press Release

### **Yee Hong's Dragon Ball 2016 ushers in Year of Monkey Prime Minister Trudeau attends the Chinese New Year Celebration**

TORONTO, ON, Feb 6, 2016 – The annual Dragon Ball, a widely anticipated fundraising gala hosted by Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, was held tonight (Saturday) at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the Guest of Honour of this major and high-profile Chinese New Year celebration in Toronto.

Presented by BMO, Dragon Ball 2016 was attended by many political, business and community leaders, including John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; Senator Nancy Ruth; Patrick Brown, leader of the Ontario PC Caucus; Ms Andrea Horwath, leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario; Xue Bing, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto, and Ms. Kathy Chan, Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto). Ms Hazel McCallion, former Mayor of Mississauga was among the VIPs.

Ms Betsey Chung, the Chief Marketing Officer of Canadian Personal and Commercial Banking and Wealth Management at BMO Financial Group and the Chair of the 27<sup>th</sup> Dragon Ball, spoke at the opening ceremony. She said that Yee Hong's high quality care has improved the lives of seniors across the Greater Toronto Area.

"Yee Hong has a special place in my heart as my grandmother lived in the very first senior centre in Scarborough 20 years ago. I have witnessed first-hand the incredible care, amazing facilities, and countless benefits seniors from our community receive from the outstanding accommodations Yee Hong has created," she said.

Dragon Ball was launched in 1990 to raise funds for building the first Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care. The Scarborough McNicoll Yee Hong Centre opened its doors in 1994, providing Chinese seniors with much needed culturally appropriate care. Today, there are four Yee Hong Centres for Geriatric Care across the Greater Toronto Area, operating 805 long-term care beds.

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Speaking at the gala, Dr Joseph Wong, Yee Hong Founder and the Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, said that senior service providers face an extremely challenging situation as our population ages. “Every day, our population gets older. Every day, people are forced to choose between caring for a loved one and pursuing a career. Every day, seniors suffer needlessly because good palliative care is in dire shortage. Time waits for no one, and neither can we.” Yee Hong needs the generous support from the corporate world and the community in order to deliver much needed programs and services to the seniors, he added.

The gala each year raises approximately \$1 million through corporate sponsorships, gala ticket sales, auctions, and the Dragon Raffle which was launched at the event.

The funds raised are used to support Yee Hong in offering a continuum of care to Chinese seniors and long-term care services to seniors from various cultural backgrounds, including South Asian, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Portuguese and Italian.

According to Stephen Siu, President of the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, Yee Hong also reaches out to the community with a range of programs and services to help seniors at home and provide families with relief, such as home support service, caregiver education program and day care program for Alzheimer’s patients.

Known for its unique culinary experience, the gala offered an array of food and drinks options at the Grand Reception and Midnight Buffet, including a whiskey tasting bar from The Macallan, popular Japanese cheesecakes from Uncle Tetsu, seared scallops and beef tartare from Carmen’s Steakhouse, Japanese sushi from Westin Prince Hotel’s Katsura and Spoon & Fork, Thai style appetizers from Linda Modern Thai, Vietnamese food from Riz – a member restaurant of the Saigon Star group, Japanese street food from Gushi, Dim Sum from Crown Jewel, FUMI’s ice cream, pastries from Bake Code, specialty tea from Chatime and more.

This year’s Dragon Ball was held two days before the arrival of the Year of the Monkey. To usher in the Chinese New Year, Dragon Ball 2016 featured one of the most popular classical Chinese legends, “Journey to the West” (the Monkey King story), by the talented dancers from the Chinese Collective Arts Association. This entertaining dance drama is a collaboration of dance and martial arts with colourful choreography, costumes, and music composition.





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The feature performance of the night was a mini-concert by Wendy Zheng, a young and talented Canadian singer-songwriter now based in Hong Kong. Wendy has written music for popular shows, films and TV dramas in China, Hong Kong and Macau. Her performance of English, Cantonese, and Mandarin songs received an overwhelming response from the Dragon Ball guests. Many were impressed by the songs such as “Miracle Love” and “You Never Know”, both written by the young star.

Dr Wong thanked all donors, sponsors, volunteers, board members and staff who made the Dragon Ball a success. He also expressed sincere thanks to the presenting and founding sponsor BMO Financial Group. “BMO is a bank with a heart of gold. It has always demonstrated that it cares about the communities it serves. And BMO has been with Yee Hong for almost three decades.”

Dragon Ball 2016’s other major sponsors include: Tridel, Manulife, MediSystem Pharmacy, Tour East, TD, Air Canada, Audi Uptown, Canada Chaoshan Business Association, CXT Architects, RBC, Scotiabank, Delta Air Lines. The event was also supported by Hong Kong Economics and Trade Office (Toronto).

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From left: Dr Joseph Wong, Yee Hong Founder and Chair of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ms Hazel McCallion, former Mayor of Mississauga and Xue Bing, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Toronto taking part at the eye-dotting ceremony at Dragon Ball 2016.





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Picture shows Stephen Siu, President of Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation (left) and John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Mrs McCallum.

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