



The Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of
Canada

加拿大宋慶齡兒童基金會

3933 S.W. Marine Dr, Vancouver BC V6N4A2

For Immediate Release:

On October 3, 2008, the Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada will hold its annual fundraising dinner to support projects that help children in Canada and China.

The Dinner will take place on **October 3, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Continental Seafood Restaurant, 11700 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC.** Dinner will be followed by dancing with a live band. Over 400 participants are expected.

The Honourable Linda Reid, Minister of State for Child Care, MLA for Richmond East, will be the keynote speaker at the dinner.

The fundraising efforts at the dinner will mainly target two important projects of the Foundation.

The first project is the very successful **Kids First after-school program at the Hastings Elementary Community School**, located in Vancouver's downtown East side. At this school, many of the children are from poor families or from recent, non-English speaking immigrant families. They are growing up in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in all of Canada. The after-school program at Hastings School, called the "Kids First" program, has been shown to be highly successful in promoting the socialization and healthy development of the many socially at-risk children in the school. Due to limited financial resources that prevent expansion, this successful program has a long waiting list. The Foundation seeks to raise funds to expand the Kids First program, thereby giving more children who need it a chance at a better life.

The second project is **the Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism in Beijing**. This project addresses the needs of the hundreds of thousands of children growing up in China with a diagnosis of Autism. These children, who lack language and social skills, face exclusion from school and a near-total lack of government services. The Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism has been helping educate these children and their families for fifteen years, and has helped thousands of families. The Institute depends entirely on private donations (it receives no government support) to supplement the parents' tuition and provide these services to the children and families who so desperately need them. SCLCFC seeks to raise funds to support this Institute, so it can continue improving its efforts to meet the needs of these children who have a serious disability.

The Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada was founded in 1981 by the late Order of Canada recipient Professor Paul T.K. Lin and his wife Eileen, as a voluntary, non-profit organization. Since then, the Foundation has played a unique role in linking the peoples of China and Canada to improve the welfare of children in both countries.



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For more information or to obtain tickets to the Dinner, please contact the President of
SCLCFC, Tony

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