



**陳聖源** 議員  
Shaun Chen, MP

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## 心懷夢想 激情進取 —— 熱衷消除隔閡、打造多元包容環境

19歲被麥克林雜誌列入“加拿大最受矚目的100位年輕人”；26歲成為加拿大最大教育局—多倫多公校教育局最年輕的委員；34歲成為最年輕的多倫多公校教育局主席，亦是首位擔任此職的華裔；35歲參加聯邦競選一舉成功，成為國會議員。

一般人想像中，如此光彩照人的履歷背後，當是一位擁有得天獨厚背景的青年才俊，求學就職一路順風順水，意氣風發。然而陳聖源並非啣著金鑰匙出生，他也從不諱言自己出身寒微—“我來自一個同政界沒有任何聯系的移民勞工家庭，我父母從沒上過大學，他們辛勤工作了一輩子。但是他們教會我勤奮努力的重要性，教會我要意志堅定、謙遜待人。”

在八十年代末期士嘉堡的一所小學裏，陳聖源是全班僅有的幾個少數族裔之一。那時他感覺自己和周圍的一切是那麼格格不入：他的皮膚顏色、在家裏說的語言以及吃的食物和班上同學不一樣。儘管他在加拿大出生，但當別人提到“加拿大人”時，他本能地覺得那是指白人，並沒有包括他。即使後來周圍華裔逐漸增多，他仍然有那種隔閡感，因為他們大部分說粵語，而他則說客家話，他的父母亦非來自香港或中國大陸，而是印度移民。

這種被邊緣化的經歷，使他格外關注社會平等以及如何幫助弱勢群體等話題。高中時他作為士嘉堡青年委員會主席主辦

了一場主題為“打破壁壘”的大會，來自全省各地的年輕人就反種族主義、反歧視和反仇恨等議題開展了討論。

大學時，陳聖源選擇了計算機專業，同時副修社會學系“平等研究”專業。大學畢業之際，他終於確定自己最想做的不是當工程師，享受高薪和平穩生活；他更熱衷於服務社區、消除不平等和隔閡，推動社會往更好的方向發展。教育是推動社會變革的重要領域，也是確保每個人都有平等機會獲得成功的關鍵。他決定去競選多倫多公校教育局委員。

回首當初的抉擇，陳聖源對父母充滿感激。當他告訴父母自己要放棄軟件企業高薪機會，去競選薪資低得多、未來也充滿不確定的教育局委員時，他父母沒有阻攔，只是很平靜地說，“你真的準備好了嗎？你的華裔身份，走這條路會很難。在加拿大政界，只有極少幾位華裔人士。”對陳聖源而言，父母的告誡對於處在理想主義雲端的他是一個及時的提醒，使他能夠認真審視自己將面臨的挑戰，為今後可能經歷的挫折做好準備。

陳聖源的確準備好了。除了少年時就一直充盈他內心要消除隔閡、推動社會進步的激情，他還擁有勇氣、堅定和腳踏實地做事的習慣。2006年當選多倫多公校教育局委員，上任不久就以實際行動證明他絕非甘於平庸因循守舊之人。

當時省府每年以ESL經費的名義撥給多倫多公校教育局8千萬加元，然而僅有一半被用於ESL項目，其餘被用於與ESL無關的運營開銷。與此同時安省10年級學生的語文測試結

果表明ESL學生和其他學生之間差距在擴大，還有許多新移民學生根本得不到ESL服務。

“我們一邊說要建設一個友善包容的環境，要幫助移民和他們的孩子盡快融入這個社會，但怎麼同時又可以容忍ESL項目得不到足夠支持、讓許多孩子因為語言障礙而被排斥在外？”陳聖源向自己、也向教育局其他委員發出這樣的質問。也許是為童年的隔閡感所觸動，陳聖源深感自己必須為那些被忽視的移民孩子仗義執言。那些被邊緣化的群體通常不願發聲，但一個多元包容的社會裏，不該遺漏任何群體，應該讓每個人都找到歸屬感。

他展開詳盡調查，走訪相關人員，並與其他委員進行充分交流，在此基礎上發起一項歷史性的動議，幾乎將多倫多公校教育局多年固定的預算模式徹底推翻，在陳聖源提供的數據和事實支持下，動議獲得壓倒性通過。教育局決定追加一千一百五十萬加元聘請更多ESL教師，確保所有新移民學生都能得到ESL服務，並在多倫多東北和西北區增設兩個新移民學生接待中心。這些措施帶來的成效非常顯著，接下來數年EQAO測試顯示ESL學生的英文讀寫能力穩步上升。無論對陳聖源個人還是教育局而言，這都是巨大的成功。

陳聖源並不滿足於已取得的成績。他尋求解決各類挑戰的方法，同時致力改善社區環境，通過組織各類活動促進學生們對各族裔文化及各個不同群體的理解與尊重。他的出色能力和實幹精神贏得了教育局內部高度認可，誠懇謙遜的風格亦讓他贏得外界許多人士的喜愛。

他不懼怕挑戰，也不畏懼處理有爭議事項。他說自己的信條是做正確的事，而不是做容易的事，哪怕正確的事暫時不受多數人歡迎。他解釋說正如一百多年前絕大多數人認為婦女不應該有選舉權，而在今天看來這種想法何其荒謬，時代在發展，政府的決定應該反映時代前行趨勢，而不是迎合大眾喜好。

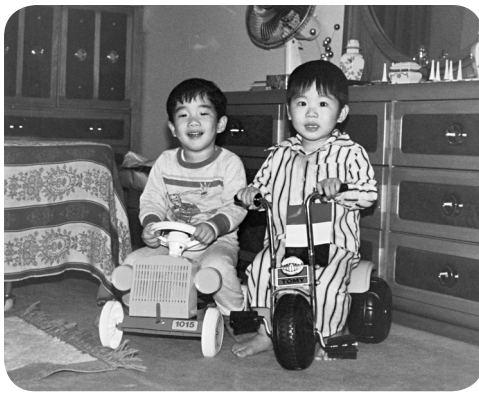
2014年多倫多公校教育局因內部分歧和爭議陷入困境，公眾信譽跌至谷底。危難之時陳聖源被選為教育局主席，人們寄望他能力挽狂瀾。他果然不負眾望，帶領團隊制訂新的舉報規定，在全省率先設立誠信專員辦公室，從而提高教育局管理的公正與透明度，建立教育局委員之間及委員與公眾間的信任。

陳聖源深信教育的核心是教會孩子們以批判眼光看待他們所學的內容，鼓勵他們自己思考並發出疑問，而不是強迫他們接受既有的一切或相信某一種觀點。在陳聖源大力推動下，多倫多公校教育局於2008年通過了將南京大屠殺和慰安婦內容納入中學歷史教材的動議。陳聖源自己是在觀看了多倫多史維會拍攝的紀錄片《張純如－南京大屠殺》後首次了解到這段歷史的。儘管他從家族繼承了許多中國文化傳統，此前卻從未了解過二戰歷史中這極其令人震驚的一頁。他認為加拿大有眾多亞裔，讓學生以及公眾了解這段黑暗歷史並非鼓勵仇恨，而是讓人們保持警醒，明白和解與和平的重要性。2016年12月12日，南京大屠殺79周年的前一天，他在國會下議院發表的一份聲明中說道：“在這裏，我要向多倫多史維會創辦人致敬，他們努力照亮這段被遺忘的歷史，令我們可以教導後代勿重蹈覆轍，

珍愛和平，歷史永遠不會被遺忘。”

許多與陳聖源共事過的人都覺得這個年輕人身上彷彿有無窮力量，他的未來不可限量。陳聖源則認為自己很幸運能夠生長在加拿大這個重視多元和包容的國家。他說儘管加拿大的多元文化機制還不完美，在加拿大社會裏也還有許多壁壘需要消除，但要感謝這個機制讓我們能夠成為自己，並且有機會獲得成功。

這就是陳聖源。他的成功背後是無數艱辛付出，而這源於他內心有一個堅定目標並一直在為之努力。當他被問到有什麼建議可以給未來有志往政界發展的年輕人時，他說，無論從事什麼行業，最重要的就是“找到你的激情所在，追尋你的夢想，你一定會成功！”



作為家中獨子，陳聖源（右）小時候和表兄Ian Pan（左）一起長大的Shaun (right) is the only child, he grew up with his cousin, Ian Pan (left)



滿周歲時與父母合影  
With his parents at first birthday



1999年，18歲時獲得安省青年義工獎時，與前安省省督Hilary Weston及前安省公民及文化娛樂廳廳長Marilyn Mushinski合影  
Awarded Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers in 1999, when he was 18 years old, with Hilary Weston, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Marilyn Mushinski, former Ontario's Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.



2014年被選為多倫多公校教育局主席後與父母合影  
Named Chair of Toronto District School Board (TDSB) in 2014.  
A photo with parents.



和陳家諾議員出席多倫多史維會活動  
With MP Arnold Chan at ALPHA Education fundraising gala



2013年任多倫多公校教育局副主席時出席新聞發布會，宣布重建被燒毀的Mary Shadd公立小學運動場  
As Vice-Chair and Trustee of TDSB at a Press conference for the rebuilding of Mary Shadd Public School's playground after it was burnt down by fire (2013)



選區辦公室開放日  
Open House of Constituency Office



出席2017年中國駐多倫多總領館春節招待會  
Attending 2017 Chinese New Year celebration



作為頒獎嘉賓出席2016年紅楓傳奇頒獎晚會  
As presenter at CCLA Gala in 2016



參加集會支持省議員黃素梅連任競選  
Rallying for support for MPP Soo Wong



國會山前留影  
In front of the Parliament Hill



與賈斯汀特魯多總理（右）合影  
With Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

## Mr. Shaun Chen

*Member of Parliament Shaun Chen has always been passionate about creating an inclusive multicultural environment by eliminating gaps for the disadvantaged and newcomers. Named by Maclean's Magazine as one of "100 Young Canadians to watch" when he was nineteen years old, Shaun became the youngest trustee on the Toronto District Board of Education (TDSB) at twenty-six. In 2014, he was elected Chair of the TDSB. Only thirty-four years old at the time, Shaun was the youngest and the first Chinese Canadian to hold that position. The following year, the 35-year-old ran in the federal election, and was successfully elected to be Member of Parliament.*

Most people probably imagine that behind such an outstanding record of accomplishments, there must have been a unique and special family background to support this talented young man throughout his life. On the contrary, Shaun was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. In fact, he would be the first one to admit that he came from humble beginnings, "I came from a working-class family with no political connections. My parents never went to university, but they worked hard throughout their lives. They taught me the importance of hard work, determination and humility."

Shaun was one of the few ethnic minority students in his class in a small school in Scarborough back in the late 1980s. At that time he felt out of place with everything around him: his skin color, the language spoken at home, and their food were not the same as his classmates. Although he was born in Canada, when others mentioned "Canadians",

he instinctively felt that they meant 'white' people, and did not include him. Even after subsequent influxes of Chinese people in Scarborough, he still felt a sense of estrangement, because these newcomers spoke Cantonese, and he and his parents spoke Hakka, a Chinese dialect. His parents were not from Hong Kong or Mainland China either - they immigrated from India.

This experience of being marginalized has made him particularly concerned about social equality and helping disadvantaged groups. In high school, he hosted a conference on "Breaking the Barriers" as Chair of the Scarborough Youth Committee. Young people from all over the province discussed issues such as anti-racism, anti-discrimination and anti-hatred at the conference.

At university, Shaun studied computer science and equity studies. Upon graduation, he decided that he did not want to work in the technology field, which had high-paying job opportunities. He did not care about securing a high income. He was more interested in serving the community, eliminating inequality and gaps, and moving society forward in a better direction. Education is an important area for social change and the key to ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities for success. He decided to run for the Toronto District School Board.

Shaun is grateful to his parents when he reflects on this very important first decision. When he told his parents he would give up potentially better opportunities in the computer software industry to run for a TDSB trustee position at a much lower salary with a more uncertain future, they did not object. Instead they asked him, "Are you really ready for this? Your Chinese identity will make it difficult for you to take



this road. There are only a few people of Chinese heritage in Canadian politics.” For Shaun, his parents’ admonition for the idealist in him was a timely reminder that he should seriously examine the challenges he would face, and prepare for any setbacks in the future.

Shaun was actually quite ready. Since he was young, he had felt in his heart the passion to promote social progress, and to eliminate barriers for disadvantaged groups. He also has the courage, determination and down to earth work habits. In 2006, he was elected a trustee of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and he took action shortly after to prove that he was not an ordinary follower of rules type person.

At the time, the Ontario provincial government had allocated \$80 million to the Toronto District School Board for English as a Second Language (ESL) funding each year, but only half of that was spent on ESL projects, and the rest went to operating expenses unrelated to ESL. At the same time, Ontario’s Grade 10 language test results showed that ESL students were performing poorly and the gap between ESL students and other students was widening each year. Many new immigrant students did not receive any ESL services at all.

“We are talking about building a friendly and inclusive environment that will help immigrants and their children integrate into this society as quickly as possible, but at the same time how can we tolerate the lack of adequate support for ESL projects and that many immigrant children are excluded because of language barriers?” Shaun asked himself and also other trustees of the school board. Perhaps moved by the sense of estrangement he felt in his childhood, Shaun feels that he must speak on behalf of the immigrant children who have been left out.

Those marginalized groups tend not to speak out, but in a pluralistic society, no group should be unheard, and everyone should have a sense of belonging in Canada.

Shaun launched a detailed investigation, met with school board staff and talked to other trustees at length on this. Then he initiated a historic motion, which almost turned upside down TDSB’s budget, a budget that had previously not been changed for many years. With Shaun’s research evidence based on facts and data, his motion was overwhelmingly passed. TDSB decided to allocate \$11.5 million to hire more ESL teachers to ensure that all new immigrant students receive ESL services, and two new immigrant student reception centers were opened in the northeast and northwest areas of Toronto. The results of these measures were very significant. In the following few years, EQAO test scores showed ESL students improved their English literacy ability steadily. This has been a great success for both Shaun and the Toronto District School Board.

Shaun is not satisfied with the achievements he already made. He constantly seeks ways to resolve challenging problems while working to improve the community environment and to promote students’ understanding and respect for different ethnic cultures through the organization of various activities and events. His outstanding ability and hard work have long been recognized by TDSB, and his sincere humble manner has also won praise and admiration from others outside TDSB.

Shaun is not afraid of challenges, nor does he shy away from controversies. He says that his conviction is doing the right thing, not the easy thing, even if the majority of people do not agree. He

explains that the vast majority of people believed that women should not have the right to vote over a hundred years ago, and today that idea seems absurd. The government's decision should reflect leadership of future development, the trend of the times, rather than cater to public preferences.

In 2014, TDSB was struggling in a crisis mode because of internal disputes and controversies. Shaun was elected chair of the board during this crisis and many had hoped that he could turn the tide. Under his leadership, the board established a whistle blower policy and an Office of the Integrity Commissioner, the first school board to do so in the province. These bodies improve the impartiality and transparency of TDSB, establishing trust among board trustees and between the public and the board itself.

Shaun believes that the core of education is to teach children to look at what they learn with a critical eye, to encourage them to think and question, rather than force them to accept everything or believe in a certain point of view. Driven by Shaun, TDSB passed a motion in 2008 to incorporate content about Nanjing Massacre and comfort women into the high school history curriculum. Shaun first learned about this shocking history through watching the docudrama "Iris Chang - the Rape of Nanking", made by ALPHA Education, a non-profit organization that promotes historical understanding of World War II events in Asia. Although he had learned many Chinese cultural traditions from his family, he had never heard about these atrocities in World War II history before. He believes that there are many people of Asian origin in Canada, and that students and the public must understand this dark chapter in world history, not to encourage

hatred, but to keep all of us alert, and to understand the importance of reconciliation and peace. On December 12, 2016, the day before the 79th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre, he issued a statement at the House of Commons: "Here in Canada, I salute the work of Toronto ALPHA for their efforts to shine light on this forgotten history. Through education, we can teach future generations to never repeat the atrocities of the past, and we will never forget."

Many people who have worked with Shaun believe that this young man, who seems to have infinite energy, has limitless potential in the future. Shaun thinks he is very fortunate to have grown up in Canada, a country with pluralism and inclusion as our core values. He says that despite the fact that Canada's multicultural environment is not perfect, and there are still many barriers to overcome in Canadian society, it has allowed us to be ourselves and given a chance for everyone to succeed.

This is Shaun. Behind his success he has worked tremendously hard with determination towards his goals. When asked what advice he has for young people interested in joining politics in the future, he says that no matter which field they choose, the most important thing is to "find your passion, pursue your dreams, and you will succeed."