



利德蕙參議員
Senator Vivienne Poy

效忠加拿大 珍惜華夏優質文化

利德蕙參議員清晰明確的歷史觀

對於加拿大東西兩岸的華人社區而言，利德蕙參議員(Senator Vivienne Poy)的知名度無庸置疑，即使是其他族裔社區，她的名聲也相當高。多年來，她那優雅清麗的身影，待人真誠親切和藹的笑容，出席公眾活動的守時謙沖，辦事負責認真的態度，凡是接觸過她的人，都會留下深刻的印象。

榮銜獎項無數

儘管她目前受委任的各種實質和榮譽頭銜逾百；獲頒的各類獎項何止數十；出版過4本書和幾十篇論文講詞；接受不同傳媒數不清的訪問，但是當她接受「華商網絡」祝賀她獲選為2009年的「紅楓傳奇人物」時，她仍非常謙虛地表示：「這是我的光榮」。

於公，她是一位非常稱職的聯邦參議員，是一位超脫「黨性束縛」的人民公僕，是加拿大華社形象和才華一流的代表性人物；於私，她是一位賢妻、良母，幾個孫子眼中的慈愛祖母；於學術界，她是一名受人敬重的傑出歷史學家，不但擁有多倫多大學歷史學碩士和博士學位，多倫多大學、香港大學、緬尼托巴大學、南韓Soongil大學、中國吉林省自治州延邊大學及美國道明大學都對她頒贈榮譽博士學位，以表揚她在促進港加中學術交流，以及推廣多元文化所作的貢獻。

利德蕙是廣東新會人，她的家族不論是父系和母系，在香港近代史上都非常顯赫，她曾出版過4本具有學術研究價值的中英文著作：其一是「利氏長流」，反映香港近百年發展史；其二是「築橋—利銘澤的生平與時代」，講述利氏家族和其先父利銘澤一生的事蹟；其三是澳洲University of Wollongong出版的一本關於研究加拿大華人的著作，書名叫做「Citizenship and Immigration: The Chinese-Canadian Experience」；其四是2006出版的一本英文著作，綜合「利氏長流」與「築橋」兩書的

重要內容，成為約克大學亞太研究中心出版的「香港生活故事系列之四」。

在加實現理想

她本人於1941出生香港，1956年15歲的她，在父母安排下負笈英倫一所名叫Upper Chine School的女校，雖然成績優秀，名列前茅，但她不喜歡校方刻板的管理方式，兩年後返回香港，1958年她同時申請到加拿大的多倫多大學和滿地可的麥基爾大學(McGill University)，翌年8月，她在母親陪同下來到麥基爾大學的校園報到。這兒孕育了她許多夢想，也逐步實現她一生的理想，包括和在McGill醫學院畢業的華裔醫生伍衛權為終身伴侶，同組美滿的家庭，追求自己對歷史的鑽研和對時裝的愛好等。

1998年的9月，對她而言是個突如其來的轉折點，不在她的人生規劃之中。有一天她接到總理辦公室打來的電話，徵求她出任聯邦參議員的意願。對於一位平時不大留意政治的她而言，一下子跳到政界的轉變實在太大，但經考慮後毅然接受這項政治任命。很多人都以為，政治任命是酬庸性質，事先事後必須對黨作出適當的回報，但利德蕙表示，她原本不認識總理克里靖，從未和他見過面或談過話，那談得上「政治酬庸」？要說緣由，應該是她過去多年來熱心公益，奉獻社會，為推展多元文化所付出的形象獲得加國政要的認同。

贊同多元文化

加拿大自杜魯道總理時代倡議以「多元文化」為國策，但有不少人認為這項國策不利於加拿大的團結，許多新移民對原居國的效忠度，遠遠超過對加拿大的忠誠度，關於這一點，利德蕙參議員不否認有這種情況，但不同意多元文化造成一盤散沙的說法。她認為少數族裔保留本身優質的祖裔文化遺產，不但不影響對加拿大的效忠誠度，反而有利於整體的融合。她極力反對將原居地的劣質文化習俗或思維搬來加拿大，然後在這個新的環境引起爭議。她指出，如果你完全捨棄本身的祖裔文化遺產，而又不是白人的話，你將對自己的身份Identity一片空白。她認為多元文化並不只是向政府申請撥款資助某個團體唱唱歌、跳跳舞，「所以我極力主張要保留本身的祖裔文化遺產，認同加拿大這個

國家，對這個國家釋出忠誠。我反對雙重效忠(Double Royalty)，你不可能同時對兩個國家效忠，既然選擇了移民加拿大，這就是你的國家。」

反對移植仇恨

她最反對將原居國的歷史仇恨或種族宿怨移植進來，不但解決不了問題，還製造不同族裔之間的矛盾。她以有些華人年復一年主張要日本對二戰所犯下的罪行認錯道歉為例，她認為二戰結束至今已超64年，這是當年中日之間的歷史恩怨，與加拿大沒有關係，不應該強要加拿大政府表態譴責日本，也沒有必要鼓勵華人抵制日貨。她說，有日裔學生在大學校園裡遭到歧視或辱罵為例，這些日裔學生出生在加拿大，根本不清楚幾十年前的戰爭仇恨，沒有任何理由要這些年輕的日裔加拿大人來承擔上一代留下的這些包袱。

身為華裔加人，她一向十分關心加中關係的演變，對於哈珀政府過去忽視加中關係，她認為十分不明智。但她也承認中國的人權紀錄一直受到西方國家的質疑和挑戰，不過，她認為近年來中國在這方面已有很大的改善，只是還有很長的路要走。她認為國與國之間必須透過交流和對話，才能改善關係，不應只是指責對方。她說，她到過中國多次，但都是私人旅遊性質，迄今還未有機會正式訪問中國，如果她有這個機會，會在適當的場合建議中國改善人權。

一般人認為在來自各地的華人移民中，要以香港移民對加拿大的忠誠度最高，是因為香港在回歸中國之前的百多年一直是殖民地，香港人沒有國籍，一旦入籍成為加國公民，更懂得珍惜。利德蕙承認她本人的確有這種感受。

參議員更自由

參議員雖然是政治任命，不是民選，但是利德蕙自認為她的參議員職位不是屬於某個政黨的，而是屬於加拿大的。她指出，作為參議員，要比眾議員有更大的自由度，眾議員必須得到黨的支持(Party backing)，任何議案的表決，都必須服從「黨意」，否則就會被黨排除，但是參議員不一樣。「舉例來說，在對一項

議案進行投票時，我經常是依照自己的良心來取決的。」她強調「做人要有原則」。對於保守黨政府曾主張改革參議院為民選機構，利德蕙認為：「只要全國的民意贊成修憲，經最高法院通過，符合改革的法定程序，大家就應該接受。」

參議員的任期可以做到75歲，利德蕙距離參議院的退休還有相當長的一段時間，問她這些年做了甚麼最有意義的工作，她表示她推廣多元文化不遺餘力。至於還有什麼心願希望在任內達成，她表示，她最想做的是建議修改加拿大國歌中的一句帶有性別歧視的歌詞，她認為第三句：「True patriot love in all thy sons* command.」應改為：「True patriot love in all of us* command.」因為加拿大是一個重視人權和男女平等的國家。利德蕙曾就此事向參議院提過兩次特案(Private bill)，可惜因故被擱置，但已有越來越多的加拿大女性認同這項議案，她決定伺機再提，希望能順利通過，使國歌更能代表全體國民。

為愛子捐腎

利德蕙除了是一位稱職的公僕，她更是一位慈母，她與整型外科醫生伍衛權伉儷情深，育有三子，長子偉雄，次子雋雄，幼子迪雄，次子在11歲時患有腎疾，需要換腎，作母親立刻要求醫生把她的一顆腎臟移植給愛子，但醫生認為當時捐贈腎臟不難找，結果很快就等到移植，但是手術後的新腎臟未能發揮正常功能，當時醫藥亦不像現在這麼先進，幾年後只好再接受洗腎和等候新腎的機會。婚後將近卅歲時，終於再次等到捐贈者，但是這次移植亦以自體排斥而終告失敗，於是又要開始靠洗腎維持生命，最近由於雋雄將近40歲，身體其他器官逐漸退化，他還有兩個年幼女兒，病體拖累家庭和影響他自己的事業，而且腎臟病患對腎臟移植的需求遽增，需要排期15至17年才有機會輪到。近年醫藥進步對於活體移植成功率大增，而化驗結果她的血型和細胞組織與兒子完全匹配，做母親的這次毫不猶豫就要求醫生將她的一顆腎臟移植到愛兒身上，慶幸的是手術非常成功，已經將近一年半，沒有產生任何排斥，功能完全正常，愛兒的體能和精神狀態恢復健康，三代家人還於今年的3月12日慶祝換腎成功一週年。雋雄對於母親的浩瀚慈恩，無以為報。他以兒子兼兩女之父的身份告訴母親說：「您不但給了我新的生命，您同時也給了我兩個

女兒一個重生的父親。」利德蕙說，這是做母親的最感欣慰的。

談到華人社區，她一再強調以作為華裔加拿大人為榮，但她也指出華人的一些冷漠和不良習性，例如有些人還存在著重男輕女的觀念，是非常不正確的；又如許多父母期盼子女日後成為醫生或律師等專業人才，對子女學習造成壓力，這也是錯誤的，應該留意孩子的專長和興趣；還有就是華人移民來到這裡，一定要入鄉隨俗注重主流社會的生活習慣，例如保持環境乾淨，注重個人衛生、培養公德心，守秩序，在電梯或迎面碰到不同族裔的人不妨說聲Good morning, How are you之類的問候詞句，這些都有助於提升華人形象。

許多人曾對她的英文姓氏Poy感到好奇，她解釋說，她先生的祖父名叫伍耀培，早年移居澳洲時，英文文件上將「培」字當成姓氏，她先生的父親移居加拿大後亦沒有申請更改，於是Poy成了伍衛權醫生的英文姓氏，將錯就錯，像這種姓氏上的倒置，華人移民並不罕見。利德蕙對於歷史的愛好，顯示在她不斷著書寫作之中，她現正蒐集資料寫一本關於她先生家族早年在澳洲的移民奮鬥史。

反歧視

利德蕙自稱個性十分「硬頸」，對於一些她不認同的事情，她是反對到底的。她反對種族歧視，在「築橋」一書中她寫到：「1950年代，有一天放學回家，被引見兩位訪客，即港督葛量洪及夫人，他們走了之後，父親對我說『在學校別提這件事，因為總督的身份不可以在中國人家做客的。』我心中一直疑惑，在這塊我們以為家的地方，畢竟我們還是屬於二等公民。」

她實至名歸，她活得璀璨多姿。



2003 Elected Chancellor of the University of Toronto
2003年獲任為多倫多大學名譽校長



At the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library, University of Toronto
捐贈多大一所圖書室，取名「利銘澤典成」



With husband, Dr. Neville Poy, who was installed as the Honorary Colonel of the Queen's York Rangers
與獲頒榮譽上校的夫婿伍衛權醫生



With Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong, Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui, who was awarded an Honorary degree by the University of Toronto
與獲多大頒贈榮譽學位的香港大學校長徐立之合影



Awarded Honorary LL.D. degree by the University of Toronto; taken with husband and son Justin and granddaughters
獲頒多大榮譽博士學位，與夫婿及次子雋雄及兩個孫女兒



A family picture with husband and three sons
與三個兒子的全家福合影



Taken at home in August 1959, her mother accompanying her to Canada for studies; her father Richard Charles Lee saw them off to the airport.
1959年8月，母親送利德蕙(左)來加拿大讀書，臨行與父親在家中花園留影。



With her husband Dr. Neville Poy
恩愛夫妻



Awarded Honorary LL.D. degree by the University of Toronto
榮獲多大頒贈榮譽博士學位



Taken with the Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra in the Senate Chamber
與參觀國會參議院的香港兒童樂團學生合影



Attending the Hakka Achievement Award ceremony with Michael Lee-Chin (right - Award winner) and the President of Hitachi Canada, Howard Shearer
一半客家裔的利德蕙與企業家Michael Lee-Chin(右)及加拿大Hitachi總裁Howard Shearer

SENATOR VIVIENNE POY

The name of Senator Vivienne Poy is undoubtedly well known in Chinese communities across Canada, but her reputation has also spread to other ethnic communities. She leaves an indelible impression on all those who come in contact with her, through her graceful and stylish appearance, her sincerity and friendly smile, her humbleness and punctuality in her public appearances, and the seriousness with which she carries out all her tasks.

She has received numerous honorary degrees, medals, and awards, is the author of four books, and has accepted countless interviews from the media. Nonetheless, when she was congratulated for being selected as one of this year's Chinese Canadian Legend award recipients, she still humbly replied that it was her honor.

In public, she is a competent senator, a non-partisan public servant, and a representative for the Chinese community. In private, she is a wife, a mother, and a kind and loving grandmother in the eyes of her several grandchildren. In the academic world, she is a well-respected historian. She holds Master's and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in History from the University of Toronto, and has been awarded Honorary LL.D. degrees from The University of Hong Kong, the University of Toronto and the University of Manitoba, for her work in promoting academic exchanges between Hong Kong and Canada, and her outstanding contributions to multiculturalism. In addition, she is an Honorary Professor at Yanbian University of Science and Technology in Jilin, China, and was bestowed an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the Old Dominion University of Virginia, United States, and an Honorary Doctorate of Political Science from the Soongsil University of South Korea.

Vivienne Poy's ancestors came from the district of Sin Hui in the Province of Guangdong in China. Both of her parents came from prominent families in Hong Kong. She has published four well-researched and highly regarded books. One of them, *A River Named Lee*, reflected the recent history of Hong Kong in the last hundred years. The

second one, *Building Bridges: The Life and Times of Richard Charles Lee*, talked about the Lee Family and her father's life story. Her third book, published by the University of Wollongong in Australia, is about Chinese in Canada, called *Citizenship and Immigration: The Chinese-Canadian Experience*. Her latest book, released in 2006 by York Centre for Asian Research, is called *Profit, Victory & Sharpness – The Lees of Hong Kong*, and it features the biographies of Vivienne Poy's father and grandfather.

Vivienne Poy was born in Hong Kong in 1941. In 1956, as a fifteen year old, she went to England to study at Upper Chine School, an all-girls boarding school. Although her work was excellent and she was among the top in class, she did not like the rigid format of the school, and returned to Hong Kong two years later. In 1958, she applied to both the University of Toronto and McGill University in Montreal. The following August, her mother accompanied her to report to McGill University. Here at McGill is where many of her dreams were conceived, and where step by step, they were realized: a loving and considerate husband, a happy family, and the opportunity to pursue her interests in historical research and in fashion design.

In September 1998, an unexpected turning point came in the form of a phone call from the Prime Minister's Office. She was asked if she would join the Senate of Canada. For someone who had not paid a lot of attention to politics, it was a very big change to jump into the political arena, but after consideration, she decided to accept the challenge. Many people think that this is a patronage appointment, and there has to be some eventual payback to the party. But Vivienne Poy says that she had never met or talked to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien before the phone call, so it could not be a patronage appointment. Indeed there is ample reason for the federal government's recognition: her philanthropy, her tireless work in supporting many public organizations and charities, and her promotion of multiculturalism over the years.

Since Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau introduced the federal policy of multiculturalism, there have been many who feel this is divisive for Canada as a country. Many new immigrants are more loyal to their places of origin than to Canada. While Senator Poy does not deny this,

she disagrees with the viewpoint that multiculturalism is necessarily divisive. She feels that when minority groups both maintain and share their cultural identity and heritage, it will only increase their loyalty to Canada, and promote social cohesion in the community. She thinks that multiculturalism is not simply getting some government grants for native song or dance. She points out that if you abandon your cultural heritage, you have nothing to anchor your identity. However, she vehemently objects to immigrants bringing cultural practices with them that are unacceptable in Canada, often causing conflicts or controversy. Vivienne Poy says, 'I feel we must maintain our cultural heritage, but we must also recognize that Canada is our country, and that we have to be loyal to Canada first – to core Canadian values. I object to 'double loyalty' - one cannot be loyal to two countries. If you have decided to come to Canada, this is your country'.

What she most objects to is immigrants bringing historical hatreds or tribal feuds with them to Canada. Not only does it not solve problems, but it also creates conflicts between different groups here. She uses the example of the demand by some Chinese Canadians, year after year, for the Japanese Government to apologize for the crimes they committed in World War II. In her opinion, World War II ended over sixty-four years ago, and this was a historical grievance between China and Japan, and does not concern Canada. We should not ask the Canadian Government to protest to Japan, and there is no need to encourage Chinese Canadians to boycott Japanese products. She says that there are Japanese-Canadian students who have experienced discrimination and verbal abuse. Since these students are Canadian-born, they don't really understand the hatred that was born of the war. There is no reason that these young Japanese-Canadian students should bear the burdens of the older generations in Japan.

As a Chinese-Canadian, she is very concerned about the relationship between Canada and China. She thinks it was not a wise move for the Harper government to neglect this relationship in the past. She also admits that China's human rights record has been challenged by western countries, and although it has improved in recent years, there is still a long road ahead. She says that relationships between two countries

can only be improved through ongoing communication and dialogue and not through overt criticism of one country by another. Vivienne Poy has been to China many times, always as a tourist, and has never visited China officially. If she ever visits in an official capacity, she will find a suitable opportunity to suggest China improve their human rights record.

Many people think that among all the Chinese immigrants, those from Hong Kong are most loyal to Canada, because for more than a hundred years, Hong Kong was a British colony. As a result, people from Hong Kong do not have a national identity, and once they become Canadian citizens, they treasure their citizenship more. Vivienne admits that she herself shares that feeling.

Although senators are political appointments, not democratically elected, Vivienne Poy says that even though she is a Liberal senator, her Senate post belongs to Canada. She points out that, as a senator, she has more freedom than a Member of Parliament. MPs must have the backing of their party and are subject to party views on any vote, otherwise they would be expelled from their party. But senators are different. 'As an example, any time when a bill is being voted on, I would vote according to my conscience.' She stresses that one must have principles. As for the Conservative party's suggestion to change the Senate to be a democratically elected body, Vivienne Poy says, 'As long as the people of Canada agree with this change, and it is approved by the Supreme Court, all of us should accept it'.

A senator can serve until he or she is 75 years old. Vivienne Poy has a long way to go to reach this retirement age. When asked what is the most meaningful work she has done these last few years, she says that she has done all she could to promote multiculturalism. As to what other things she wants to accomplish in her remaining term, she says she would like to change our national anthem. The discriminatory phrase in the 3rd line: 'True patriot love in all thy sons command' should be changed to 'True patriot love in all of us command', to reflect the fact that Canada is a country where men and women are equal. Vivienne Poy has moved two private members bills on this, but unfortunately both times they have been sidelined because of the prorogation of Parliament.

However there are more and more Canadians who agree with this bill. She is waiting for another opportunity to move the bill again, and hopes that this time it will pass successfully, and that the national anthem will then represent all Canadians.

Vivienne Poy is a competent public servant, and a loving mother. She and her husband Dr. Neville Poy have a loving marriage, with three sons: Ashley, Justin and Carter. When Justin was eleven, he had kidney disease and needed a kidney transplant. Vivienne asked the doctor at once to transplant one of her kidneys to her son, but the doctor said “No” because it was not difficult to get a donor kidney at that time, and very soon a transplant did take place. Unfortunately, the new kidney did not function well. A few years later, Justin had to begin dialysis treatment while waiting for a new kidney. When he was close to thirty, he underwent another transplant operation, but this time the new kidney only lasted a few years. Justin continued the dialysis treatment, but as he was close to forty, his body began to deteriorate. Justin has two young daughters, and his illness was having an impact on his family and his career. At the same time, donor kidneys are now in great demand, with a waiting list of fifteen to seventeen years. Since kidney transplants from living donors now have a much higher success rate, and test results indicated that Vivienne’s blood type and body cells are a perfect match for her son, Vivienne did not hesitate to donate one of her kidneys to her son. Fortunately the operation was a great success. It has been eighteen months, and there has been no sign of rejection. The transplanted kidney is functioning normally, and Justin has returned to complete physical health. On March 12th this year, the three generations celebrated the anniversary of the successful kidney transplant operation. Justin is extremely thankful to his mother for her generosity. As a son and a father of two daughters, he told his mother, ‘You not only gave me a new life, but you also gave my daughters a new father’. Vivienne says that those are the most happy and comforting words a mother could hear.

Talking about Chinese communities, she stressed time and time again that it is an honor to be a Chinese-Canadian. But she also points out that some Chinese tend to retain outdated cultural habits. As an example, there are still parents who favor sons over daughters.

Another example is that some parents expect their children to grow up to be professionals such as doctors or lawyers, which creates undue pressure on their children, when they should be paying attention to the unique strengths and interests of their children instead. Also when Chinese immigrants come to Canada, they should follow the lifestyle habits of mainstream society, such as keeping the environment clean, cultivating a public spirit, and becoming actively involved as leaders in the community.

Many people are curious about their last name ‘Poy’. She explained that when her husband’s grandfather, named ‘Ng Yiu Poy’, immigrated to Australia, the name ‘Poy’ was mistaken for his last name. When they immigrated to Canada later on, her husband’s father did not change it and Poy became Dr. Neville Poy’s last name. This kind of name reversal is quite common among Chinese immigrants. Vivienne Poy’s love of history is displayed in her writing. At present, she is collecting material for a book about the early struggle of her husband’s family in Australia.

Vivienne Poy says that she is very stubborn and will oppose to the end anything that she disagrees with. A good example is her persistence about who she would marry. Many years ago, against her mother’s objections, she chose to marry a fellow schoolmate studying medicine at McGill University. She also objected to any kind of racial discrimination. In *Building Bridges*, she writes, ‘in 1950, one day I came home from school, and was introduced to two visitors, the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Alexander Grantham, and his wife. After they left, my father said to me, “Don’t mention this in school. Governors are not supposed to visit as guests in the homes of Chinese people”. I was mystified. In this place which we thought was our home, we were second-class citizens’.

Senator Vivienne Poy lives a rich and colorful life. She truly deserves her impeccable reputation.