



胡元豹參議員
Senator Yuen Pau Woo

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“元豹”——一個富含中華文化典故的名字

中國金末元初詩人元好問曾在一首《少林》詩中寫道：“我無元豹姿，謾無紫霞想”，自謙沒有“元豹”那樣的條件，不敢有入道成仙的妄想。詩中“元豹”這一典故，出自漢代《列女傳》，陶答子之妻以南山元豹（又作玄豹）雨霧天連續7天躲避山中不覓食，將其皮毛養護得光澤亮麗，並躲避天敵的故事，勸誡其夫勿貪戀世俗金錢和權勢而惹禍上身。後世文人常用“南山元豹”比喻飽有才學卻隱居遁世、有所不為的人。

“胡元豹”就是這樣一個具有深厚中華文化典故的名字。胡元豹其人則既有中華傳統文化中的務實和謙謙君子之風，又有現代西方文化裏的自信和大膽。胡元豹的父親是在馬來西亞出生的第二代華裔，但畢生堅持將祖籍中國廣東順德視為故鄉。在胡元豹眼中，父親是一位“傳統儒學的堅守者”，他從父親那裏受到不少中華傳統文化的熏陶。胡元豹母親的家族從中國移居到馬來西亞已有數代人，她身上既彰顯出中國傳統文化的本源，又體現出馬來文化甚至西方文化的特色。胡元豹說母親將“對未知領域和新事物的求知好奇心以及開明心態”遺傳給了他。

在這樣一個多元文化家庭與社會環境中長大的胡元豹，在

新加坡英華學校（Anglo-Chinese School）接受中小學教育，16歲時獲得獎學金遠赴重洋到位於加拿大卑詩省的太平洋萊斯特·皮爾遜聯合世界書院（Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific）就讀，之後又前往英國劍橋大學和倫敦大學繼續深造，可謂深得中西方文化精華的滋養與不同教育理念的啟迪。

也正是基於家庭與教育的影響，身在加拿大的胡元豹，始終對中華文化保持深深眷戀和自豪感。2012年他參與創立“中華環球：溫哥華中華藝術和文化促進協會”，並於2014年開始擔任會長。“中華環球”以加拿大通向太平洋和亞洲的門戶城市溫哥華為基地，通過舉辦文化與藝術展覽推廣中華文化，促進跨國交流與理解。中華環球成立當年就協助溫哥華美術館成功舉辦了名為“紫垣擷珍（紫禁城：中國皇帝宮殿中的珍寶）”的展覽，向加拿大民眾展示了許多珍貴的故宮文物。在為期3個月不到的展覽時間，觀眾人數高達15萬人次。

“知行合一”與冒險精神

2016年10月30日，53歲的胡元豹被加拿大總理任命為聯邦參議院的參議員，當天也是他父親去世兩周年的忌日，他在自己的Facebook上寫道：“父親所篤信的儒家理念，其實正與加拿大的立國理念不謀而合：和平、秩序與良政。若是父親知曉我將到參議院任職，他一定會感到非常欣慰，也一定會認為這

是一個公民最崇高的事業。”

成為參議員之前，胡元豹在學界和商界都已有相當高的聲望。他是加拿大亞太經濟和政策，以及加拿大與亞洲關係領域的知名專家，是多個智庫和研究機構的資深研究員，曾擔任加拿大亞太基金會（Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada）及溫哥華總部促進局（HQ Vancouver）等機構的總裁，並曾連續10年擔任加拿大駐太平洋經濟合作理事會（PECC）的代表。

胡元豹步入政界，似是因循了儒家“學而優則仕”的傳統。不過在知天命的年紀，離開舒適的職業環境，以華裔身份進入最高立法機構工作，需要極大的勇氣和責任感。胡元豹沒有象南山元豹那樣將才華藏起來明哲保身。他身上既有西方文化中的冒險精神，又兼具中華特色的“知行合一”理念與家國情懷。他說：“我一直很重視思想和學習，但我也是個行動派。我注重培養清晰的思維和遠見，是為了指引行動。我職業生涯中貫穿始終的一個主題，就是引導我所有行為的思想的重要性。”從這個意義上而言，在對公共政策進行了多年研究和探討之後，進入政策的制定和實施領域，將一直以來所研究的思想付諸實踐，對胡元豹而言是再自然不過的過渡。

無懼“親中”攻擊，做自豪的加拿大華人

盡管如此，胡元豹並未指望在政界一帆風順，他做好了準

備迎接困難和挑戰。除了將思想付諸實踐的挑戰，還要應對不同政見者的責難與攻擊。胡元豹的任命消息公佈後，就有一名國會議員反對，他公開評論胡元豹的任命更像是中國政府做出的，因為胡“肯定會一心一意幫中國謀求利益”。這個議員在許多人指責其拿族裔做文章的壓力下向胡元豹道歉，他辯解說自己針對的不是胡的族裔，而是政策傾向。

無獨有偶，不久後另一名國會議員也因胡元豹反對保守黨在參議院提出的一項關於南中國海的動議而指責胡幫中國政府說話。胡元豹的回應很清晰有力：“任何讀過我在南海議題上的演講稿的人都會明白，我所採納的立場，完全是出於為了促進加拿大在亞洲和全世界的利益為核心思想。”

近年來，“親中”越來越容易成為一些加國政客攻擊與自己意見不同的華裔人士的借口，受影響的不僅僅是華裔政治人物，而是整個華人群體。胡元豹認為，中國在當今世界的影響力越來越大，加拿大在世界格局中的定位不可能完全與中國隔離或背離，在某些問題方面，符合加拿大利益的立場可能與中國的立場一致，這是很正常的。他說：“加拿大華人在評論與中國相關的議題時，都會支持加中加強聯繫，這不能通通將他們歸於‘親中’。基於對中國的深厚了解和經驗所提出的意見有益於全民討論，在加拿大理應受到歡迎。加拿大如何應對中國在世界日益增強的影響力，將在一定程度上決定加拿大的前景。就此而言，中國的作用越重要，我們就越需要華人為加拿

大長遠利益考慮而貢獻。”

與此同時，胡元豹也強調，加拿大華人要對自己的身份演變和定位有更加清晰的認識。他說：“華人應該為自己的文化傳統而自豪，這與我們的國籍或來源國並沒有絕對關聯。加拿大華人不必要倚賴於外部資源來確證自己的中華文化背景身份。同樣地，華人也無須為了融入加拿大‘主流’而刻意淡化自己的文化傳統。華人在加拿大已有150多年歷史，華人群體本來就是加拿大主流的有機組成。華人應該有勇氣、獨立和自信做自豪的加拿大人，維護、支持和發揚中華語言、文化和傳統歷史。”

2017年9月，他在參議院上任還不到一年，胡元豹當選為無黨派參議員團領袖，他決心帶領同僚致力於聯邦參議院的改革，讓參議院在加國民主政治中發揮更積極的作用。被外界稱為政壇“新手”（newbie）、此前也曾自嘲是個“書呆子”（egghead）的胡元豹，並沒有顯示出青澀與遲疑，他在將美好思想付諸行動的路途中，如同一只黑豹，沈穩、敏銳又矯健。



2016年12月9日，胡元豹宣誓就職成為
加拿大聯邦參議員
Woo being sworn in as a Canadian Senator.
December 9, 2016.



胡元豹參議員到訪北京參觀故宮博物院
(2014年)
Visiting the Forbidden City in Beijing, China in 2014



胡元豹參議員在國會山與若干參議員
及嘉賓共慶農曆新年（2017年
2月）
Celebrating Lunar New Year on
Parliament Hill with some Senators
and guests. February 2017.



胡元豹參議員在母校太平洋萊斯特·皮爾
遜聯合世界書院發表演說（2016年）
Speaking as an alumni at Pearson College
UWC Global Affairs Session in 2016.



胡元豹參議員主導亞太基金會的
"Gateway Calligraphy" 項目
Senator Woo with Gateway Calligraphy Project of
The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.



胡元豹參議員在阿爾伯塔省出席加拿大華人聯合行動基金會2017年成立慶典活動
Celebrating launch of ACCT (Action Chinese Canadians Together) Foundation in Calgary, Alberta, in 2017.



胡元豹參議員與其他兩位參議員在2018年獨立參議員團冬季團會活動中
Senator Woo with two other Senators at the Independent Senators Group Winter Retreat in 2018.



胡元豹參議員在加拿大150周年慶祝全國總會的2018年加拿大日擊鼓歡慶加拿大國慶日活動上致辭
Speaking at The Legacy 150 Celebrations Society 2018 Canada Day Drumming Celebration



胡元豹參議員參訪中國海南省（2015年）
Visiting Hainan Province, China in 2015



胡元豹參議員在2017年維多利亞論壇上致辭。
Speaking at the 2017 Victoria Forum, "Canada @150: Promoting Diversity & Inclusion."

Senator Yuen Pau Woo

Senator Yuen Pau Woo has a Chinese name that is rich in Chinese cultural heritage. Yuen Pau meaning 'black leopard' alludes to a story from the Han Dynasty describing a leopard in Nan Shan (South Mountain) which hid in the mountains for seven days from the rain to keep its beautiful black fur shiny and bright. This leopard was later used as an allegory for scholars who live in seclusion to avoid political strife. With such a legendary story behind his name, Senator Woo possesses both the pragmatism and modesty of Chinese traditional culture, and the confidence and boldness of Western modernity.

Yuen Pau Woo's father was a second-generation Chinese born in Malaysia, who retained a spiritual connection to his 'ancestral village' in Shunde, Guangdong, China. The family later moved to Singapore, where Yuen Pau grew up. A hard worker and a Confucian throughout his life, Yuen Pau's father influenced his son deeply with his values and beliefs. His mother's family had moved from China to Malaysia for several generations and she embodied traditional Chinese culture with Malay and Western influences. Yuen Pau said he inherited from his mother "a sense of curiosity and an openness for wonder".

Yuen Pau grew up in this multicultural environment and received

primary and secondary education at Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore. At the age of sixteen, he received a scholarship to study at Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific in British Columbia, and then continued his graduate studies in the United Kingdom, attending the University of Cambridge and the University of London. His traditional upbringing and world class education further rooted Yuen Pau in the essence of Chinese and Western cultures.

As a result of these influences, Senator Woo has always maintained a deep attachment and pride in Chinese culture. In 2012, he co-founded “China Global: The Vancouver Society for Promotion of Chinese Art and Culture” and started his tenure as president in 2014. Based in Vancouver, as Canada’s gateway to the Pacific and Asia, China Global has promoted international understanding by organizing art exhibitions to promote Chinese culture. After China Global was founded, it helped Vancouver Art Gallery hold an exhibition of rare and precious artifacts - The Forbidden City: Inside the Courts of Chinese Emperors. The exhibition lasted three months and as many as 150,000 people attended.

On October 30, 2016, 53-year-old Yuen Pau Woo was appointed as an independent senator by the Prime Minister of Canada. That day was also the second anniversary of his father’s death. He wrote on his Facebook page: “(My father) was an old-fashioned Confucian who believed in a Chinese version of the Canadian ideal: peace, order, and good government. Which is why he would have appreciated my

appointment to the Canadian Senate, and would have considered it the highest calling for a citizen.”

Before becoming a senator, Yuen Pau had a highly regarded reputation in both academic and business circles. He is a well-known Canadian expert in Asia-Pacific economics, policy and relations between Canada and Asia. He is a senior researcher in several think-tanks and research institutions. He has served as President and CEO of Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, President of Vancouver Headquarters Promotion Bureau (HQ Vancouver), as well as served on many boards for non-profit organizations. He is Chair of the board for the Vancouver Academy of Music. Yuen-Pau also served as the representative on the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) for ten consecutive years. In 2012, he was recognized with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Award for his contributions to Canada-Asia relations.

Yuen Pau Woo’s entry into the political world would appear to fulfill the Confucian tradition of “public service follows academic excellence.” It takes great courage and a sense of civic responsibility to leave a comfortable professional environment for a life as a political and civil servant under public scrutiny. But Yuen Pau has a Western-style adventurous spirit and he also believes in putting knowledge to action. Senator Woo believes very strongly in the importance and power of ideas. He says, “.....I am also action-oriented. I place a lot of value on the development of clear thinking and far-sighted vision as a way

to come up with good actions. All of my professional experience, the different jobs that I had.... the common theme in my career has been the centrality of the ideas that have been shaping the actions that I've taken." After years of research in public policy, serving in the Senate and putting his ideas and knowledge to action is a natural extension of Yuen Pau's life work.

The transition to public life was not without challenges. In addition to the intrinsic difficulty of putting ideas into practice, personal attacks had to be dealt with. When Senator Woo's appointment was announced, there was objection from a member of parliament, who claimed that his appointment demonstrated foreign influence, and that Senator Woo would act in favour of the People's Republic of China. Later this member of parliament apologized to Senator Woo under public pressure and charges of racism.

Senator Woo was also accused of helping the People's Republic of China when he opposed a motion on South China Sea. Senator Woo responded with clarity: "Anyone who has read my speech on the South China Sea issue will understand that the position I have adopted is entirely based on the guiding principle for promoting Canada's interests in Asia and the world."

In recent years, accusations of being "pro-China" have become convenient rationales for some Canadian politicians to attack Chinese-Canadians who hold different opinions. This not only has an impact

on Chinese Canadian politicians, but it also affects the entire Chinese-Canadian community. Senator Woo believes that China's influence in today's world is growing. In a globally interconnected world, Canada cannot always be separated or isolated from China. He feels that naturally there are some issues on which a Chinese position could be very much aligned with Canadian interests. Senator Woo says, "Chinese Canadians speaking out on issues related to China and expressing support for Canada's deeper engagement with the Peoples Republic should not be stereotyped as 'pro-China'. Opinions that are based on deep knowledge of and experience in China should be welcomed as contributions to a national debate rather than cast aside because of lazy assumptions about the Chinese Canadian community. Canada's outlook will be shaped in part by the country's response to the growing influence of China in the world. In this respect, Chinese Canadians who can contribute to thinking about the longer-term interests of Canada vis-a-vis China have a vital role to play".

At the same time, Senator Woo stresses that Chinese Canadians should have a clear understanding of their identity and their evolving roles in society. He says, "Chinese Canadians should be confident in their cultural heritage, which is not dependent on nationality or country of origin. They should not have to rely on external sources to validate their identity as Canadians of Chinese background. Likewise, they should not have to downplay their heritage in order to join the Canadian 'mainstream. In fact, the Chinese community has had a significant

presence in Canada for over 150 years, and it is an integral part of the Canadian mainstream.”

In September 2017, having served in the Senate for less than a year, Senator Woo was elected as the Facilitator of the Independent Senators Group. He is determined to spearhead the work on Senate reform, allowing the Senate to play a more active role in Canadian democracy. Senator Woo, known as a “newbie” in politics, has jokingly called himself an “egghead”. But he has none of the awkwardness that characterizes a newcomer. Just like a graceful leopard, steady and sharp, he has already sprung forward to put good ideas into action.