Chinese Canadian Legend 2017



# 陳家諾議員 Arnold Chan, MP

作者: 吳翠儀 Author: Clorie Ng

# 燃烧生命 從政喚起國民心

從當選參政至今不到兩年,陳家諾即由一位在補選中勝出的國會議員,晉身成第一位獲委任為加拿大國會下議院執政黨副領導議員的華人。早在16歲,他已加入政黨,從此全心關注國政民情、竭盡公民本份,直至當選後全力任政議政,繼而患上癌症,依然一邊與病魔搏鬥,一邊繼續工作,燃盡每一分力,實為加國華裔國民的模範。

陳家諾剛步入50歲「知天命」之年,對於獲得「紅楓傳奇」獎項,表示「也許太早吧」。他坦言自己踏足政壇年日尚淺,感到有點不配,這也是他首次獲得獎項表揚他。然而,若看他在人生路上如何認定一己的追求,堅持一己的信念,並且身體力行履行國民的責任,喚起國民對公民參與的覺醒,以致在抗癌路上堅忍作戰,盡忠職守不離不棄,在在體現了「情繫家國締傳奇」的精神。

#### 政客出少年 國民心早植根

陳家諾擁有一個起得很切合其人的名字:天生對家國有一份的承諾;這自然要歸功於他的父母。說到功勞,他們不只給他改了一個好名字,也把一些寶貴的情操從小植根於孩子心中。今年6月,陳家諾邀請父母及家人一起到國會坐席,並且發表了一篇感人肺腑的演詞,其中特別提到父母給他「傳授」的三個做人之道:盡忠、盡力、盡責,令人想到其雙親的人生定有箇中閱歷與體驗。

陳家諾的父母來自香港,兩人在1961年飄洋過海往澳洲 留學的途上邂逅,繼而成為一生的同路人。父親學的是電視科 技,畢業後獲加拿大廣播公司(CBC)聘用為技術員,從此在多

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倫多落地生根;陳家諾和弟弟也成為土生土長的移民後代。

陳家諾正好生於加拿大立國100週年(1967年),並形容自己出於一個「打工階層」的家庭,父親是個刻苦耐勞的人,在CBC的工作一直要輪班,而晉升的機會也不多,但他堅守職責,數十年如一日,工作能力有目共睹,終於守得雲開,成為技術部門的主管。

在父母身上,他看到第一代加國移民面對挑戰而持守本分的精神。另一方面,生於多元文化社會的他,亦開始追尋自己的身份、理想和志向。父母希望他唸醫科,他卻自覺個性不太適合,反而是弟弟成了一位兒科醫生。

高中時期的陳家諾,對歷史和地理尤感熱衷,而他的一位 教師也把公民意識深植於他心中,激發他力學不倦,關心政治 與法制。其後,他升讀多倫多大學,攻讀了政治學和經濟學本 科雙學位,又獲得行政管理碩士學位,他還進一步深造,在卑 詩大學(UBC)獲得法律學位。開始工作後,又在業餘時間攻讀 多倫多大學城市規劃專業,獲得另一碩士學位。

#### 法政仕途 人生里程邊走邊創

陳家諾回憶自小一家在飯桌談論的話題,總離不開政治、 社會與民生,儼如生活不可或缺的一部份,難怪陳家諾是那麼 自然且自發地投入公民與政治活動。16歲那年,他翻開電話 簿,找到自由黨在他所屬選區的號碼,然後撥電給他們說要加 入成為黨員,從此也就踏上了他的「參政」之路。

入黨不久,陳家諾便成了不折不扣的「黨青」;每月出席 黨務會議,逐漸成為競選活動的一線義工。這位忠心黨員,也 想不到有一天會在黨內活動結識到太太Jean。那時他的生活和 時間,就是圍繞著黨務和「正職」;不是上班便是上黨。

他的事業則從法律界起步;1990年取得法律學位後加入了一間律師行;當年正值經濟衰退,加國地產陷入低迷,律師行業的生意自然大受打擊,他在行內汲取經驗,先後任職好幾間律師行,也曾任私人企業、公共部門,擔任顧問及企業高層主管等工作。

回看他事業的發展,以及在法律界累積的經驗,不單有助他晉身國會後擔當的職務,也正好與他在政界走的路雙線並行,直至一天水到渠成。

2000年是他仕途上一個轉捩點;他獲聘為前安省省長麥堅 迪當選前的行政助理,這崗位正好為他打開全職參與政事的大 門。2007年,他又成為當時任安省旅遊文化及體育廳長陳國治 的幕僚。

2014年,陳家諾在前自由黨國會議員詹嘉禮辭職後,透過補選成功晉身士嘉堡愛靜閣選區的國會議席。2015年10月成功連任國會議席。2015年12月,又獲新任總理杜魯多委任為加拿大國會下議院執政黨副領導議員,躍上更大的政治舞臺。副領導議員的角色是國會立法程序上的一個領導角色之一,確保國會立法程序起到重要推進作用,包括確保立法程序的透明和公正、改革現有的不合理程序,以及確立新規則和秩序。

### 人生課堂 抗癌路

正當躊躇滿志,準備大展拳腳之際,這顆政壇新星竟遇上意想不到的「競敵」:2015年初,陳家諾確診患上鼻咽癌,經過半年的治療與抗爭,且告痊癒,並且於10月在聯邦大選中以超過5成選票成功連任國會議席。詎料2016年2月,一次例行體

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檢顯示他的癌症復現,需要再度接受治療。

這抗癌的「第二波」無疑對他身心帶來不少磨蹭與挑戰; 作為一位政客,工作時間向來不分畫夜,加上華人社區活動尤 見頻繁,叫他分身不暇。陳家諾不得不調整日程安排之下,仍 堅持工作下去,繼續為士嘉堡愛靜閣區民眾服務,在選區和渥 太華的辦公室也照常運作,他的助手們也繼續解決民眾的問 題。

他説:「我的身體也許被拖慢,我的腦袋卻拖不下…」當 然也拖不垮他的決心和意志。

在瑪嘉烈公主癌症中心接受鼻咽癌治療期間,陳家諾還參加了該中心舉行的「第三屆戰勝癌病慈善跑步」活動,為頭頸部癌症病患康復者項目籌款。

問他到底有甚麼讓他一直堅持下去,他說:「沒有甚麼比意志的力量更大!不管生命給我甚麼,我都會一一去面對,且要繼續做我要做的,永不放棄。」要走這段艱辛路,當然少不了他身邊的家人、同事、以致選民給他的無限支持。患難見真情,箇中經歷也見證了他對家國之情矢志不渝。

#### 以誠相諫 家國有情

他的心聲,在今年6月一次國會演講中讓人真切感受得到,即使是透過電視轉播,也叫人無不動容。他呼籲國會議員縱有分歧意見,也要相互聆聽;這是民主的精髓所在。

他還呼籲加拿大人珍視民主制度,鼓勵大家參與投票、參 與公民行動,不論是擔當一個足球隊的教練,還是在食物庫做 義工,以至做一些更簡單的事情,例如讚許餐廳的侍應生,在 路上給人讓路,向別人說聲「謝謝」;這些一點一滴的小事, 正是讓我們社會更加美好。

這肺腑之言不單送給國會議員、加國公民,也送給未來的公民;作為三個兒子的父親,他沒有期望孩子投身政治,他勸勉大家:「用你的腦袋,跟隨你的心,找自己想走的路。」他希望下一代加國華裔能進一步提升公民的醒覺性,更自發地參與公民活動;也希望更多華人律師成為法官,加強華裔在司法體系的代表性。

在加國慶祝150週年之際,他表示希望看見加國繼續發揚擁抱多元文化的精神,也特別指出國家對原住民的政策仍有待改善,並須致力修補歷史遺留下來的傷痕。在他患病期間,他還親身造訪多個原住民地區,了解他們的境況,用心聆聽。你可以相信,他的承諾將會繼續以行動去履行、用決心去堅守。

註:陳家諾議員不幸於2017年9月14日辭世,遺下妻子及三個 兒子。



八歲大 At 8 years old



與媽媽和弟弟 With Mom and little brother Kevin



多倫多大學畢業 Graduating from University of Toronto



宣誓就任士嘉堡愛靜閣區國會議員,旁為 父母、妻子及三個兒子

Swearing in as the Member of Parliament for Scarborough—Agincourt; with Mom and Dad (Sandra and Anthony Chan), his wife Jean Yip and 3 children Nathaniel, Ethan and Theodore



與士嘉堡愛靜閣長者一起慶祝農曆新年 Celebrating Chinese New Years with seniors in Scarborough—Agincourt



總理杜魯多及國會議員Dominic Leblanc 陪同首度步入國會 Taken into the House of Commons for the first time by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and MP Dominic Leblanc



在國<mark>會演說</mark> Speaking in the House of Commons





於2015大選活動介紹自由黨領袖杜魯多 Introducing Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau in 2015 General Election



與市長莊德利參加士嘉堡社區活動 With Mayor John Tory at a local Scarborough event



With Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, MP Geng Tan and MP Shaun Chen



與自由黨領袖杜魯多一起主持傳媒招待會 With Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau hosting a press conference during 2014 by-election Campaign



與省長韋恩及義工一起參加士嘉堡 國慶大巡遊

With Premier Kathleen Wynne and local volunteers taking part in the annual Scarborough Canada Day Parade



During 2015 General Election with the Honourable John McCallum - now the Canadian Ambassador to China

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## Mr. Arnold Chan

In the relative short time frame of two years since Arnold Chan won a by-election in 2014 to be Member of Parliament, he has been appointed Deputy House Leader of the Government. He jumped into the political arena when he was only sixteen years old. From that point onward, he immersed himself in political and national affairs, fulfilling the duties of citizenship with a passion. After his successful re-election in October 2015, he has continued his parliamentary work while battling illness, setting a courageous example for all Chinese Canadians.

Arnold has just turned 50 years old, an age at which people say when one's destiny is more or less cast. The Chinese Canadian Legend Award, to him, is 'perhaps too early'. He says frankly he hasn't been in public service for that long a time, and that his contributions are not significant compared with others more deserving. This is the first time he has been recognized with an award. However, in the eyes of many, Arnold has persevered in his pursuit of goals for the betterment of Canadian society, his public fight against cancer awakening the call of duty in all of us, and exemplifies the true spirit of a Chinese Canadian Legend in the year when Canada is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Arnold's Chinese name 'Jia Nuo' means promise, commitment to one's family, one's country, a most appropriate name for him. Not only his parents are to be credited for choosing a good name for their first born, but also for planting the right values in his heart early on in his formative years. In June this year, Arnold invited his parents, his brother and his wife to Parliament, where he delivered a moving speech. In his speech, he specifically mentioned that his parents had taught him three principles in life and work: Devotion, Dedication and Duty.

One cannot help but think that Arnold's parents must have unique life experiences to exemplify these values for their children.

Arnold's parents came from Hong Kong. They met each other in 1961 on their way to Australia for studies, and these fellow travellers through this serendipitous encounter became fellow travellers for a lifetime journey. Arnold's father studied television technology and after graduation was employed as a technician by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). The family settled down in a working class neighbourhood in Toronto, and Arnold and his brother became second generation immigrants.

Arnold was born in 1967, Canada's centennial year. His father was a hard worker; his job as a technician required shift work while promotion opportunities were few. But he insisted on fulfilling his duties to the best of his ability day after day. His efforts paid off, and when he retired, he had been promoted to be Head of Technical Services Department at CBC.

In his parents, Arnold witnessed the challenges faced by the first generation of Canadian immigrants and how they met those challenges with persevering dedication. On the other hand, he began to pursue his own identity, ideals and aspirations in this multicultural society. His parents wanted him to study medicine, but he felt that it was not suitable for his temperament. In the end, his brother became a pediatrician.

During high school, Arnold was especially interested in history and geography. One of his teachers sparked his interest in civic affairs. He studied tirelessly, keen in both politics and the rule of law. He then

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went to the University of Toronto to pursue a bachelor's double degree in political science and economics, and a master's degree in public administration. Following that he went on to obtain a law degree from the University of British Columbia. After he started working, in his spare time he studied for another master's degree in urban planning at the University of Toronto.

Arnold recalled conversation at the family dinner table was always about politics and people, as if they were an indispensable part of life. So it was no wonder that Arnold joined civic and political activities as soon as he was able to drive. At the age of 16, he opened a phone book, found the number for the Liberal Party in his riding, and called them up to join as a party member. From that point on, Arnold embarked on his "political career".

Soon after joining the party, Arnold became a staunch youth member. Every month he attended party meetings, and worked as a volunteer on election campaigns. At sixteen, this loyal party member did not anticipate that one day he would meet his future wife Jean, at an election campaign activity. At that time his entire life evolved around his job and the party.

His work career started with the legal profession. He joined a law firm in 1990 after being called to the bar. With the economic recession in the 1990s, Canadian real estate was in the doldrums, and legal businesses were hit hard. Arnold worked in several law firms, as well as private enterprises and the public sector. His work ranged from being consultant to senior executive, and he was able to get experiences in various sectors during this time.

In retrospect, his career development and cumulative experiences in the legal field have helped him prepare for his position in Parliament, in parallel with his political path.

2000 was a turning point in Arnold's career. He was an aide to former Ontario Premier David McGuinty after he was elected. This post opened the door to full-time participation in the political arena. In 2007, he joined the staff of Michael Chan, then Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

In 2014, when former MP Jim Karygiannis stepped down from his position, Arnold successfully ran in the by-election for his seat. In October 2015 he was successfully re-elected. In December 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau appointed him Deputy House Leader of the Government, giving him a bigger role in Parliament. The Deputy Government House Leader plays a leadership role in the House of Commons in ensuring and promoting transparency and impartiality in the legislative process, including improvements and reform of existing procedures and establishment of better rules and legislative order.

In January 2015, just when everything was going well, Arnold was diagnosed with nasopharyngeal carcinoma. After six months of treatment, his cancer had subsided. In October, he ran for re-election successfully with more than 50 percent of the vote. In February 2016, to his dismay his cancer recurred and he needed to undergo treatment again.

This "second wave" cancer has undoubtedly wrought havoc on his physical health and presented huge challenges. As a politician, work hours have always been around the clock, and there are always many

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more events in the Chinese Canadian community than any other community. Arnold has had to adjust his schedule, even though he still insists on continuing to serve as an active MP representing the constituents in his riding of Scarborough Agincourt, while his office staff continue to serve the people he represents.

Arnold says, "My body may slow down, but not my head ...", and of course, neither does his determination nor will. During his nasopharyngeal cancer treatment at Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Arnold took part in the third annual walkathon to raise funds for nasopharyngeal cancer patients.

We ask him what keeps him going, and he says, "There is nothing greater than the power of the will! No matter what life gives to me, I will face challenges as they come. Just carry on for as long as I can. Never give up. "Of course, accompanying Arnold on this difficult journey are his family, his colleagues and voters who give him their unending support. It is the true test of their love for him, and through it all, Arnold has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to his country.

In June this year, Arnold delivered a truly touching speech in the House of Commons. Many were moved, even though they only saw it through a television screen. In his speech, he urged his fellow Members of Parliament to truly listen to each other, even though they held different opinions, explaining that this was the essence of democracy.

He also called on Canadians to cherish our democratic system, encouraging everyone to vote, participate in civic engagement, whether to volunteer as a soccer coach or at the food bank, and to treat each other with kindness, even in simple things, such as praising restaurant wait staff, giving the right of way to others, or saying thank you. All these little things may look trivial, but they are what make our society so great.

These words spoken from the heart are not just for all parliamentarians and Canadians, but they are also for the future citizens of Canada. As a father of three sons, Arnold does not expect his children to join politics. He says to his children and fellow MPs: "Use your head, but follow your heart to find your own way." He hopes that the next generation of Chinese Canadians will be more socially conscious and fully engaged in civic society. Arnold also encourages more Chinese Canadian lawyers to consider judgeship and be called to the bench, increasing the representation of Chinese Canadians in the judicial system.

As Canada celebrates its 150th anniversary, Arnold hopes that Canada will continue to make progress in embracing multiculturalism. He points out that policies on aboriginals have much room for improvement and we need to find a way to heal the scars left over from the past. As Member of Parliament, he has visited many Aboriginal communities from coast to coast, and listened carefully to understand their situation. One can truly believe in Arnold's commitment to fulfill his promise. He will continue to persevere for as long as he can.

Footnote: MP Arnold Chan passed away on September 14, 2017, leaving behind his wife Jean Yip, and three sons: Nathaniel, Ethan, and Theodore, his parents Anthony and Sandra, and his brother, Kevin.

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