



李紹麟省督

**His Honour Lieutenant Governor
Philip Lee**

李紹麟——從移民到緬省省督

2009年6月19日，加拿大總理哈珀委任差不多半個世紀以前來自香港的移民李紹麟(Philip Lee)出任緬尼吐巴省省督，接替即將退休的約翰·哈佛(John Harvard)。李紹麟在2009年8月4日的15響鳴槍儀式中，正式就任緬省第24任省督，任期五年。這也是加國歷史上同時有兩位在任的華人省督；另一位是現任亞伯達省省督林佐民。李紹麟是加拿大歷來第三位華人出任省督一職，首位華人省督為前卑詩省省督林思齊。

退休後獲任省督改變人生規劃

或許有人認為，「政治任命」- Political Appointment 只要肯捐錢就十拿九穩，這種說法並不實在，像李紹麟和林佐民並不是靠捐錢得到任命的，林思齊當年雖然捐了幾百萬加元給卑詩大學，但他對該省慈善事業所作的貢獻，早已得到華洋社區的認同。

對於李紹麟而言，這項任命是突如其來的，不在他的人生規劃中。人的一生有許多事情固然可以預早安排，但命運卻不一定按照你的設想隨著你。2005年，他從溫尼辟市政府污水管理局首席水質專家的職務上退休前，已在原單位幹了38年，根本沒想到會被任命為省督。

省督是一份位尊而無實際行政權的職務，但毫無疑問是眾多華人夢寐以求的。到底需要甚麼條件？為甚麼李紹麟會被選上？在電話訪問中，李紹麟認為除了平日廣結善緣，人脈豐沛以外，致力帶領緬省華人融入主流社會，自己對加拿大各方面的認知常識豐富，語文應對能力強，曾以副官身份協助前省督利巴(Peter Liba)，對省督的運作非常熟悉，再加上時運，造就了他這一段

機緣。

化學專業曾打算改行做律師

1944年李紹麟出生在戰後的香港，他不諱言他的家庭頗為富裕，因為父親曾任香港永安公司最佳銷售員，窗簾和紡織部門的主管，做過珠寶中間商，經營過進出口生意，在他出生前，父親已擁有許多房地產，是位百萬富翁，在他最後那幾年，我們全家成了天主教徒，我進了教會學校，也從父親那兒學到不少做人處世的道理，香港德信小學及九龍華仁書院中學畢業後，1962年移民加拿大緬尼吐巴省溫尼辟，18歲那年進入緬尼吐巴大學攻讀化學專業。他說：「當時選擇到緬省，是因為家姊在該處讀書。」

李紹麟說，1967年大學畢業後，他本來打算返回香港發展，而且他因為有一些有利的社會關係，曾有意轉行到朋友開設的律師行實習，然後考律師牌。但當時正好碰上67暴動，他曾經歷過香港1956年那次暴動，夢魘般的回憶說服他接受了母親的勸告，他決定留在當地，同時憑著他的專長，在溫尼辟市政府的廢水管理局找到水質化驗師的工作，直至2005年退休。進入主流社會工作，儘管他的英文水平甚至比白人還要好，但他「從來未忘記自己的根」，透過老僑領歐福(Mr. Charlie Au Foo)的介紹，公餘參與當地華人社區的一些活動。早年緬省的華人不太多，泰半來自廣東台山，老僑的英文水平普遍不高，碰到問題總是頭痛，他經常主動幫助老僑交涉需要英文的疑難雜症，久而久之，他成為當地華人社會相當受歡迎的人物。

為當地華人解決一些困難

李紹麟說，有一次一位來自香港的留學生被控在當地的

購物商場高買，警方將這位華人學生以涉嫌偷竊的罪名移送法辦，當事人焦慮萬分，除了要花錢找律師以外，一旦罪名成立，日後還會留下案底，對於一位學生來說，影響深遠。當對方把情況向他說明之後，他相信對方並無高買的意圖，只是一時疏忽，走錯了方向。於是李紹麟運用他平日建立的人際關係，親自找上辦案的警務人員和辦案法官，說明原委，希望看在一名年輕人的前途份上，讓他有改過自新的機會。結果控方撤銷原案，以警告了事。這位學生得以順利完成學業，返回香港，多年來對他一直心懷感激。

從70年代起，李紹麟就活躍於當地華人社區，幫助開拓發展溫尼辟的唐人街，發起緬省的多元文化節，並協助建成溫尼辟中華文化中心。他先後擔任緬省中華總會館副主席、主席、緬省中華文化中心董事局主席、緬省民間藝術委員會副主席等職，是緬省諸多重大社區活動的發起人和組職者。

曾致力推動平反華人人頭稅

李紹麟數十年來堅持推動平反人頭稅的活動，足跡遍及全加各地，促成聯邦保守黨哈珀政府向華人社區公開道歉，並對存活的人頭稅苦主作出每人加幣兩萬元的象徵性賠償。他不贊成繼續在人頭稅的問題上糾纏，主張華社要善用政府賠償的基金，作些有教育意義的事。

去年6月19日哈珀總理接見李紹麟，決定委任他接替緬省省督時，曾就有關華社及反對黨批評哈珀不出席京奧開幕式是不重視加中關係，以及應如何推動加中關係徵詢他的意見。李紹麟建議哈珀首先不要帶著有色眼鏡去看中國，建議他會見中國領導人時態度要務實誠懇。哈珀告訴李紹麟說，他帶領保守黨平反人頭稅，而且任命李出任華人不多的緬省省督，證明他對

華人社區並無成見。去年12月初，哈珀首次訪華，相當成功，李因為當天正好要代表女王宣讀緬省的Throne Speech，無法陪同總理訪問上海，總理非常欣賞李紹麟以職責為重的做法。

說到獲委任為緬省省督這一段，李紹麟說，最早獲得該省進步保守黨黨魁麥菲登(Hugh McFadyen)提名，至6月19日正式獲總理任命，其間還頗具戲劇性。前省督哈佛去年6月底任滿，需要新人接替。4月間，當時政界紛舉薦自己心目中的人選，緬省保守黨黨魁麥菲登與李是多年朋友，談及下屆省督人選，表示有意舉薦李紹麟，並徵得李的同意。當時已有超過10位人士被提名，據麥菲登表示，李出線的機會大約只有10%，建議李盡量接觸緬省的政界人物，爭取支持。一周後，在一個上流社會的招待會上，李見到了幾位國會議員和參議員，李當面懇求他們支持。接着，當地著名的華人醫生兼好友余嶽興(Dr. Joseph Du)也舉辦了一次招待會，宴請省市名流，包括警察局長在坐，李請他支持提名，並請求他能致函總理辦公室，警察局長爽快地答應。幾天後，總理辦公室來電話，告訴李已經上了初選名單。李從英倫渡假回來，總理辦公室主任約李赴渥太華面談了4小時，終於落實了總理選擇李紹麟的決心。其實緬省溫尼辟70萬人口當中，華人僅佔2萬，李紹麟獲委任省督，令當地主流社區有點意外。李紹麟說，加拿大是一個機會平等的國家，他鼓勵新移民努力，可以獲得公平的機會。

認為總理對華社已釋出善意

李紹麟於1993年他獲頒加拿大立國125周年紀念獎章，1999年獲加國最高榮譽的加拿大勳章。今年2月曾偕同夫人前往白金漢宮晉見女王，他還特地贈送給女王1937年和1959年加拿大發行的鈔票，分別印著英王喬治六世和女王當年加冕的肖像。

李於1968年與劉巾眉女士結婚，育有三個女兒，都在緬省大學畢業，在大學圖書館、銀行工作，而小女則協助母親經營電腦店，已有兩名外孫。

省督的職責代表英女王擔任省的最高領導，諸多官方、社團、節慶的親善活動，讓他的生活變得異常忙碌。他開玩笑說，過去他一個星期工作五天，每天工作到下午5點鐘就可以下班，但擔任總督之後，星期六、日反而最忙碌，甚至一個星期都出外活動。他笑說，除了擔任親善大使，還要用功學習，每個星期固定上兩堂法語課，讓自己更稱職。

以加拿大10省來計算，全加華人人口約110萬，佔全國總人口的3%，同時有2位華裔省督，佔了20%，這個比例不尋常，說明加國重視多元文化，顯示哈珀總理對當地華社的重視，也不妨視為哈珀總理向全加華社釋出善意。省督是形式上的首長，並無行政實權，但李紹麟相信可以透過他所關注的省政議題，以另類方式發揮影響力。他贈言華裔移民善用加拿大強調族裔平等的國策，加入政黨等不同形式參政，爭取積極性，進一步提升華人的地位。



李紹麟伉儷攝於緬省省督府。
Photo of Their Honours taken in the
Legislative Rotunda



李紹麟省督伉儷晉見女皇。
At Buckingham Palace



李紹麟伉儷與總督莊美楷交談。
With The Governor General Michaëlle Jean



李紹麟與家人攝於總督府。
The Lee Family



李紹麟省督獲頒緬尼吐巴勳章。
Order of Manitoba



李紹麟省督應邀出席一項皇家騎警的活動。
RCMP Medal and Award Ceremony



李紹麟伉儷參與華社活動。
At Chinatown Street Festival



李紹麟省督出席緬省多元文化民俗活動。
Their Honours are dancing at the Caribbean
Pavilion during Folklorama



李紹麟省督出席緬省烏克蘭族裔社區的活動。
Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin

His Honour Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee

On June 19, 2009, Prime Minister Steven Harper named Hong Kong immigrant Philip Lee to be the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. On August 4, 2009, in a fifteen-gun salute ceremony, Philip Lee officially became the 24th Lieutenant Governor, beginning a term of five years. It was the only time in Canadian history to have two Chinese Canadians serving as Lieutenant Governors at the same time, with Norman Kwong also serving in his last year as the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. (He completed his term in May 2010.) Philip Lee is the 3rd Chinese Canadian Lieutenant Governor in Canadian history; the first Chinese Canadian Lieutenant Governor was British Columbia's David See-Chai Lam from 1988 to 1995.

There may be some who think that political appointments can be obtained with large donations, but this is simply not true. While David Lam did donate a few million dollars to the University of British Columbia, neither Philip Lee's nor David Lam's appointments came about because of donations.

To Philip Lee, this appointment came as a result of being in the right place at the right time. He did not purposely plan for it, and even if he were to plan for it, it would not have worked out the way it did. In 2005, he retired from his position as the Branch Head Chemist in charge of Winnipeg's Industrial Waste Control, having served the City of Winnipeg for 38 years, never once contemplating that one day he would be appointed Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor position is a prestigious post; even without the power of execution, it is a job that many can only dream about. What kind of qualifications does one need? Why was Philip Lee selected among all the candidates? In a telephone interview, Lee credited his appointment to his large network of good friends and

his efforts at integrating the Chinese community into mainstream society, he himself often serving as a bridge-builder between the two communities. He also has detailed knowledge of the political structure of Canada in all aspects, strong language skills, and has an intimate understanding of a Lieutenant Governor's role and responsibilities, having served as an assistant to a previous Lieutenant Governor, Peter Liba.

Philip Lee was born in Hong Kong in 1944. He does not deny that he came from a fairly wealthy family. His father once was the top salesman with Wing On Company, the head of draperies and fabric departments, bought and sold jewellery, and ran an import and export business. Before he was born, his father had already amassed a lot of properties, and was a millionaire in those days. In the last few years of his father's life, his family became Catholics. Philip studied in a Catholic primary school, Tak Sun school and a Catholic high school, Kowloon Wah Yan College. From the Catholic fathers, he learned how to be a good student. From his own father, he learned what kind of person he should be. After graduating from Kowloon Wah Yan College, he immigrated to Winnipeg in the province of Manitoba in 1962, choosing that province over others because his sister was already there. At eighteen, he entered the University of Manitoba to study chemistry.

Philip says that after graduating from university in 1967, he was planning to return to Hong Kong, so that he could leverage the considerable family connections that they had there. He planned to work as an article student in a law firm that was owned by a friend, and eventually be licensed as a lawyer. However, the 1967 riots in Hong Kong, on top of his nightmarish memories of 1956 riots, convinced him to accept his mother's advice to stay in Winnipeg. Philip got a job in his specialty as a research chemist dealing with water supply and water

quality studies at the city of Winnipeg. Working in mainstream society, speaking better English than some Canadians born in Canada, Philip has never forgotten his roots. Through the introduction of Mr. Charlie Au Foo, a well known Chinese-Canadian community leader, Philip participated in many local Chinese community activities after work. In those early years, there weren't that many Chinese-Canadians in Winnipeg, most of them coming from Guangdong and Taishan. Philip acted as an advocate and problem-solver for them when they ran into difficulties, especially for the older generation who had little knowledge of English. After a while, he became a very popular figure in the local Chinatown community.

Philip tells the story about a student from Hong Kong who was arrested by the police for shoplifting in the local shopping plaza. The student was extremely worried. Aside from the money needed to hire a lawyer, if there was a conviction, the student would have a police record which would impact his future. After the student explained his situation, Philip believed the student was innocent and did not mean to steal. On the student's behalf, Lee talked to the police department about this case. After Lee explained the circumstances, the Crown Prosecutor decided to drop the charges, and gave the student a warning instead. This student was able to complete his studies and return to Hong Kong, forever grateful to Philip for his help.

Since the seventies, Philip has been very active in the local Chinese community, helping to develop Chinatown in Winnipeg, playing a key role in organizing the Chinese-Canadian community to participate in the first Folklorama during the Centennial Year of Manitoba. He was one of the driving forces behind the building of the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre. Philip was the vice-president and vice-chair of the board of the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre, the Folklorama arts committee

vice-chair and later became vice-president of the Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg. Philip Lee was the initiator and organizer of many important community activities in Manitoba.

Philip Lee has always been a strong supporter of the Chinese Head Tax Redress movement, travelling throughout Canada to call for a public apology from the Harper Government, and a token \$20,000 compensation for each head tax survivor. The movement was a success, and Philip does not support dwelling on this issue, preferring to focus the community's attention on using the compensation funds for some meaningful projects in education.

Last year on June 19, when Prime Minister Harper met with Philip Lee to make the announcement, he asked him for his opinion on a range of Canada-China issues. Harper had faced criticism from the opposition party as well as the Chinese community on the fact that he did not attend the 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremony in Beijing, reflecting the low priority Harper had placed on Canada-China relations. Philip suggested that Harper not view China with tainted glasses; instead he should meet Chinese government officials with a sincere and honest attitude. Harper told Lee that he led the Conservative party to redress the Chinese head tax issue, and appointed Philip Lee to become the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, even though it was a province with a small population of Chinese-Canadians, proving that he did not have anything against the Chinese community. Last December, Harper visited China for the first time, and it was a successful visit. At the time of the visit, Lee had to represent the Queen to read Manitoba's throne speech, and was unable to accompany the Prime Minister in visiting Shanghai. Harper was appreciative of Lee putting his job as a Lieutenant Governor as his top priority.

On his appointment as Lieutenant Governor, Lee said that the time between his nomination by Hugh McFadyen, the Progressive Conservative and Opposition party leader, and his appointment on June 19 unfolded like a drama. The previous Lieutenant Governor, John Harvard, was retiring in June 2009, and needed a successor. In April, many politicians started to put forward their choice of candidates. McFadyen and Lee were old friends, and he wanted to nominate Lee. At that time there were already over ten candidates on the list. McFadyen told him his chance of success was only 10%, and he suggested that Lee get in touch with as many Manitoba politicians as possible to get their support. A week later, at a reception, Lee met a few Members of Parliament as well as some Senators, and he asked for their support. His good friend and renowned pediatrician, Dr. Joseph Du, also held a reception on his behalf, inviting the influential elite in the city, including the Chief of Police. Lee asked him to support his nomination, and if he could write a letter to the Office of the Prime Minister on his behalf. The Chief of Police gladly obliged. A few days later, the Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) called to say Lee's name was now on the short list. After coming home from a vacation in England, Philip Lee was asked by the Director of PMO to meet in Ottawa. Their discussion took over four hours, and solidified the Prime Minister's decision to appoint Lee as the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba. In fact, of the 700,000 people resident in Winnipeg, there are only 20,000 Chinese. The appointment of Philip Lee as Lieutenant Governor came as a surprise to the mainstream society there. Lee says Canada is an equal opportunity country, and he encourages new immigrants to work hard to take advantage of these opportunities.

Philip Lee received the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 1993. He was inducted into the Order of Canada in 1999. This February, accompanied by his wife, he was received by the Queen in Buckingham Palace. The Lieutenant

Governor gave a special gift of two Canada bills to the Queen, one dated 1937 bearing the image of King George the Sixth and one dated 1959 bearing the image of the newly crowned Queen. Lee married Anita Lau in 1968; they have three daughters, all graduated from the University of Manitoba. The oldest is now working in a university library and the second daughter at a bank, with the youngest daughter helping her mother run a computer store. They have two grandchildren.

The Lieutenant Governor's responsibility is to represent the Queen at Manitoba's official functions, such as government, social and celebratory activities. Lee's life is extremely busy. He jokingly says that in the past he worked five days a week, and could get off work at 5 pm. Now as a Lieutenant Governor, he finds that Saturdays and Sundays are the busiest, sometimes working through the entire week. Aside from being the friendship ambassador, he also has to study, taking French classes twice a week, so that he can do his job even better.

Of the ten provinces in Canada, there are altogether 1.1 million Chinese in Canada, about 3% of the entire population, but for a time we had two Lieutenant Governors of Chinese descent out of ten provinces, which was 20%. This uncommon representation tells us that Canada places a lot of emphasis on multiculturalism, and that Prime Minister Harper does place a high priority on the Chinese community. It can also be seen as a friendly gesture towards all Chinese-Canadians in Canada. While the Lieutenant Governor is a symbolic head of a province, without real executive powers, Philip Lee believes he can exert influence through paying attention to certain provincial issues. He tells new immigrants to leverage the multicultural policy in Canada, and to participate in different political arenas for positive action to elevate the profile of all Chinese-Canadians.