

## A Teacher's Guide to *Chinese Canadian Women, 1923-1967*

This guide illustrates how to use the content and materials available through *Chinese Canadian Women, 1923-1967* in the classroom. The guide provides a section-by-section description of the website with subject links and suggested activities.

### **A Note to Educators:**

As a teacher, you are in a powerful position to shape your students' understanding of Canadian history, culture and identity. By incorporating these portal resources into your classrooms, you will be providing perspectives that are often left out of our history – those of women, immigrants and ethnocultural minority groups. In this way, your students will learn that every person who comes to Canada becomes part of our shared heritage, and their experiences become part of our national history.

### **Curriculum Links:**

In general, the portal content links to:

- Elementary and Intermediate (grades 5-8) Social Studies and Language Arts
- Secondary (grades 9-12) History, Canadian Studies, Law, Women's Studies, Language Arts, Civics

## Portal Resources

**Exhibits:** Teachers and students (senior elementary school and higher) can use the exhibits to inform or supplement classroom learning through text, visual materials and audio interview clips.

*"The sense of where you come from": Timeline of Chinese Canadian History:* This exhibit provides teachers and students with an overview of important dates and events in Chinese Canadian history. It is a useful resource for studying:

- Civics: Laws and their impacts; Legal discrimination
- Social Studies: Citizenship; Canada and the world; Racism and discrimination; Diversity and multiculturalism
- History: Immigrant history; Canadian identity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Geography: Migration; Diversity and multiculturalism

*"I thought I was a Canadian, but they didn't recognize me as a Canadian": Legislation and its Impact:* This exhibit provides teachers and students with a look at the impact that discriminatory legislation had on Chinese Canadian women. It is a useful resource for studying:

- Civics: Laws and their impacts; Legal discrimination
- Social Studies: Citizenship; Human rights; Racism and discrimination
- History: Women's history; Immigrant history
- Geography: Migration

*"They gave up themselves for the next generation": The working lives of Chinese Canadian women, 1923-1967:* This exhibit provides students and teachers with a look at Chinese Canadian women's education and working lives. It is a useful resource for studying:

- History: Women's history; Immigrant history; Canadian identity in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

*"One foot Canadian, one foot Chinese": Family and Community:* This exhibit explores Chinese Canadian women's contributions to their families and communities. It is a useful resource for studying:

- Social Studies: Culture; Diversity and multiculturalism
- History: Women's history; Immigrant history; Canadian identity
- Geography: Diversity and multiculturalism

**Collections:** Our online collection is a valuable resource for teachers looking for supporting materials, or students (secondary school and higher) doing research on: Women's history; Immigrant history; Chinese Canadian history. It includes:

- Approximately 1,000 images collected from individuals and institutions
- 33 oral history interviews conducted for this project, with transcripts (English only)
- Approximately 100 oral history interviews from the MHSO Chinese Collection, primarily in English and the Cantonese and Mandarin dialects.

**Activities:** Students can view rare video footage, listen to audio clips, and explore original artwork to learn about cultural practices and cultural spaces in a fun and interactive way.

*Backstage at the Cantonese Opera:* This activity for students in senior elementary school and higher supplements lessons on:

- Social Studies: Culture
- History: Chinese Canadian history
- Art: Cultural arts

*Explore Chinatown:* This activity for students in senior elementary school and higher supplements lessons on:

- Social Studies: Culture; Gender
- History: Chinese Canadian History; Women's history
- Geography: Diversity and multiculturalism

**Education:** The education section features four lesson plans for classroom use, and two historical exercises that can be used in the classroom or as an enrichment exercise for motivated students.

Lesson: *Insider and Outsider Perspectives: Cantonese Opera in Canada, 1920-1960*

- Grade Level: 7-9 and Secondary I-III (Quebec)
- Course Links: History, Art, Language Arts

Lesson: *Stories of Citizenship: Using Oral History to Understand the Past*

- Grade Level: 11-12 and Secondary V (Quebec)
- Course Links: History, Language Arts, Law, Social Studies

Lesson: *"Every person of Chinese origin or descent...": Anti-Chinese Immigration Laws in Canada, 1885-1967*

- Grade Level: 9-12 and Secondary III-V (Quebec)
- Course Links: History, Social Studies, Law

Lesson: *Community Involvement, Then and Now*

- Grade Level: 9-10 and Secondary III-IV (Quebec)
- Classes: History, Social Studies, Women's Studies, Language Arts

Historical Exercise: *Working with Oral History*

- Grade Level: 7-12 and Secondary I-V (Quebec)
- Classes: History, Social Studies

Historical Exercise: *Working with Photographs*

- Grade Level: 7-12 and Secondary I-V (Quebec)
- Classes: History, Social Studies

**Community:** The community section provides students with four different opportunities to get more deeply involved in the topics presented in this portal:

- **Community Bibliography:** Students can learn more about Chinese Canadian women's history with the resources listed here. Students are also encouraged to add their own resources.
- **Family Oral History – A How-To Guide:** Students can learn how to interview their grandparents and other family members about their life histories.
- **Oral History Video Project:** Students can conduct a short video interview and post it online, and view posted interviews on YouTube.
- **Chinese Canadian Women Flickr Group:** Students can browse photographs submitted by the MHSO and other users to help fill in missing information, and submit their own photographs.