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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage | Dream to reality**

The dream of a space to highlight the unique cultural heritage and contributions of Asian Canadians will soon make a dream a reality with the creation of the Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCH), set to launch in March 2009.

Organizers are currently welcoming contributions from the public on a range of topics on Asian Canadians.

“I am delighted that there will finally be an online forum to showcase Asian Canadian culture and heritage. This virtual museum is a great opportunity for Asian Canadians to come together across the country in an ongoing dialogue,” said Canadian Senator Vivienne Poy, the Patron of Asian Heritage Month Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture (Central Ontario) Inc. and Honourary Chair of the Board of Advisors, Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage (VMACCH). “It also has the potential to be a superb educational tool for students, among others, who want to learn more about our Asian Canadian communities.”

The museum will showcase the cultural experiences and expressions of Asian Canadians in a variety of capacities from across Canada. It will strive to provide insight into how this demographic experiences life in Canada, how Asian Canadians choose to express their traditional culture and heritage, and what these expressions and experiences mean to Asian Canadian communities.

The project is funded by Canadian Heritage’s ‘Gateway’ Fund.

The museum will be as inclusive as possible in regards to the material it exhibits and organizers are currently collecting contributions. From photo galleries of contemporary Asian photographers' work, to stories shared between grandparents and grandchildren to videos and other multimedia to work on traditional festivals celebrated within Asian Canadian communities; every effort is being made to examine a variety of perspectives and give them all an equal voice in the project, said the organizing committee of VMACCH.

VMACCH will allow for the preservation and online showcasing of one of Canada's most culturally diverse communities, but it will provide a meeting place for Asian Canadians and other Canadians to come together to share in cultural experiences. By creating an easy to navigate, accessible meeting place, it will open the barriers often encountered in cultural exchanges.

The educational value of the project is also significant, as the museum will allow free, online access to a rich and abundant cultural ocean of knowledge for both students and educators.

Contributions are welcome on the following topics:

- general history of Asian Canadians
- cultural traditions and storytelling by Asian Canadians from Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia and Southeast Asia
- contributions of Asian Canadians to Canada in

- > visual art
- > music
- > dance
- > literature
- > science & technology

- prominent Asian Canadians portrait gallery
- Asian Canadian cultural history education
- policy issues
- cultural roadshows
- Asian Canadian social history
- festivals from Central, East, South and Southeast Asia
- Asian Canadian political history
- exclusions & inclusions
- multiculturalism
- ethnic statistics
- the Way Forward
- milestones in Asian Canadian history
- milestones from Central, East, South and Southeast Asia

"The experiences of Asian Canadians nationwide are an important part of Canada's past, present and future. We want this museum to reflect and celebrate these contributions," said the organizing committee of the project.

Submission and queries can be emailed to [vmacch@yorku.ca](mailto:vmacch@yorku.ca). Visit [asianheritagemonth.org](http://asianheritagemonth.org) for further details.