

For Immediate Release

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Government Actions Needed to Protect Multi/First-Language Media

In an [open letter](#) to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Canadian Heritage Pablo Rodriguez, the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice (CCNC-SJ) expresses its deep concern on the Toronto Star parent company's decision to discontinue the print version of the Sing Tao Daily. The CCNC-SJ calls on the federal government to take action to protect diverse media in languages other than English or French.

Along with the earlier downsizing of OMNI TV, the decision to stop printing Sing Tao Daily forms part of a disturbing trend of disappearing accessible non-English language news media in Canada. Sing Tao Daily is Canada's largest national Chinese language newspaper, and it reaches 10% of the Chinese Canadian community.

Multi-language print media is a matter of accessibility and national security. The widespread and devastating consequences of anti-Asian hate over the past two years has exposed that social cohesion and our Canadian identity are vulnerable to attack by individuals and foreign actors through the spread of misinformation online. Access to reliable and accountable print media therefore serves an important role in raising awareness on racial issues, as well as dispelling conspiracy theories and fighting hate and misinformation that can have devastating consequences on individuals and whole communities.

"Ensuing equitable access to quality news and dependable information is not only an important issue for racialized communities. It is what freedom of press is all about. In a world where even wars are fought increasingly through control of information, we need a national strategy to protect and strengthen our media – which must include first/multi-language media," said Amy Go, president of CCNC-SJ.

In light of the dire need for multi-language media to raise awareness towards and address anti-Asian hate incidents in Canada, as well as the growing need to counter widespread online hate and misinformation, **CCNC-SJ demands that the Canadian government:**

- Uphold its commitment to multiculturalism and accessibility by providing funding or other incentives for Canadian-owned multi-language print media to continue operating.
- That the CRTC should review the outdated Ethnic Broadcasting Policy to live up to its mandate of facilitating programming for all Canadians.

For media, contact: Agnes Man, Executive Director at national@ccncsj.ca, www.ccncsj.ca