

your families, your neighbours, your friends, your customers. Tell them it is vital they vote. I am told there are some 100 000 Canadians of Asian origin living in Quebec. It is essential that these numbers are reflected at the polls. As Canadians living in Quebec, you each have to ensure that your voices are heard and thus it is essential that you exercise your right to vote so that Canada remains united. My comments are limited to Quebec, but as someone from British Columbia, Quebec's separation would have an impact on all of us throughout Canada.

As a young boy growing up in Hong Kong, my father used to tell me that just as he had fled China to Hong Kong, I too would have to flee Hong Kong for a better life. He instilled in me the need to study a science so that my skills would be marketable in other countries. When he died when I was a teenager, I began to search for a real home. My eyes quickly turned toward Canada. Like me, many of you, or your ancestors, came to Canada because you recognized that Canada is a community united by certain basic values: the rule of law, a democratic government, freedom, integrity, peace, and respect for human rights, honesty and compassion. These values are the very essence of our society. These are universal values, values that transcend cultures. There was a special moment when all of this hit me shortly after my arrival - it was during my first week in Canada. I was standing at a bus station in Vancouver. It was raining so I had on the typical raincoat that we wore in Hong Kong and with my little hood over my head it was quite clear I was new to Canada. A little old woman standing at the bus stop walked over to me and said: "Where are you from?" Now I must admit I was a bit nervous because I wasn't sure what she wanted. Nevertheless, I answered her: "I'm from Hong Kong, ma'am." She took my hand and shook it. "Welcome to Canada son, we have a great country. We can use more hard-working young men like you." I knew right then and there that I had finally found a home.

And I do not want to see my home divided and broken apart. There is too little to be gained and far too much to lose with separation. You and all Quebecers would be giving up all you have built for empty promises and non-existent guarantees. We have worked hard to win our rightful place in this country and to be called Canadians. At this point, the road to separation is not only pointless, but dangerous, especially considering that we have achieved so much together.

The Canadian economy is solid. Inflation is almost non-existent. Our growth rate is the highest of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development member countries. Our productivity is on the rise. And the latest federal budget is ensuring that we get our fiscal house in order.

Let us ask ourselves this question: How would an independent Quebec be more successful in trying to solve the problems of unemployment, or social problems such as crime and welfare dependency? How would