

The Frederick Lee Story and the Hill 70 Memorial Project

During World War I (WWI), approximately 300 Chinese soldiers enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force despite rampant anti-Chinese discrimination. Anonymous until recently, Frederick "Freddy" Lee was one of those soldiers.

Born into a Chinese Canadian Merchant family in Kamloops, BC, Freddy volunteered for the war, enlisting with the 172nd Battalion and served in a vital role as a machine gunner. Freddy fought in and survived the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1916, but was later killed in the Battle of Hill 70 in August 1917 at only 21 years of age. He fought and died as a Canadian. Freddy was among the 11,286 Canadians killed in France with no known graves.

Freddy's story is one that not only symbolizes the strength and determination of Chinese Canadians' long struggle to gain acceptance as full Canadian citizens, but also embodies the Canadian spirit of "strength in diversity", where Canadians of all ethnicities contributed to the history and development of their nation.

While featuring Frederick Lee, the symposium will present a larger Chinese Canadian story. Based on historical research by experts on Chinese Canadian studies and WWI, along with invaluable insights from key figures involved in various Frederick Lee projects, the event will shine new light on Chinese Canadians' contributions to Canadian history.

Date: Oct 28, 2019 (Monday)
Time: 4:00 to 6:30PM

Richard Charles Lee
Canada-Hong Kong Library
Robarts Library 8th Floor
University of Toronto
130 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5S 1A5



Light refreshments will be provided

Please RSVP by emailing events.rclchk@utoronto.ca or by calling 416-946-8978

Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Larry Alford, Chief Librarian, University of Toronto Libraries

Opening Remarks

The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, Chancellor Emerita, University of Toronto, and retired Senator of Canada

Panel Chair

Dr. Jack Leong, Director, Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library

Panelists

Dr. Lisa Mar, Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese Canadian Studies, University of Toronto

Dr. Robert C. Engen, Department of Defence Studies, Canadian Forces College

Mr. Mark Hutchings, Chairman, The Hill 70 Memorial Project

Mr. Jack Gin, Finding Frederick Lee Project



Richard Charles Lee Chair
in Chinese Canadian Studies