



**Vietnamese Canadian Federation  
Fédération vietnamienne du Canada**

## **Background & Achievements**

**January 15, 2012**



## Vietnamese Canadian Federation: Background and Some Major Achievements

- Founded: 1980
- Currently has 10 member associations: Vietnamese communities in Halifax, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver
- Sponsored about 1,000 Vietnamese refugees under the threat of forcible repatriation in Asia: 1988-1992
- 1995: Built the Vietnamese Commemorative Monument in Ottawa, with the *Refugee mother and child* statue
- 2005: Launched the Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project
- 2007-2009: sponsored, under the *Freedom at Last* Project, 275 Vietnamese refugees who were stranded in the Philippines for almost 20 years
- 2011: joined US-based Boat People SOS (BPSOS) and other international organizations in the *Coalition to Abolish Modern Day Slavery in Asia (CAMSA)* to provide support to Vietnamese migrant workers, brides of foreign men, and refugees in Southeast Asia who are not helped by the Vietnamese Communist government
- 2010-2013: Undertakes the project *Investing in Youth Today for a Better Community Tomorrow*, partly financed by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, to build the *Vietnamese Youth Mentorship Network* with the purpose of helping Vietnamese youths draw encouragement, strength, and educational and professional advices from their peers and elders across Canada.
- Works with member associations in the development and preservation of Vietnamese culture and to contribute to the enrichment of the Canadian cultural mosaic through Vietnamese language schools, artistic performances, and most recently the activities of the Asian Heritage Month.
- Continues to stand up against violations of human rights in Vietnam with testimonies on Parliament Hill, open letters published widely in Canada, and briefing documents prepared for Canadian politicians' meetings with their Vietnamese counterparts.

## Vietnamese Boat People Museum Project

- Launched by the Vietnamese Canadian Federation in 2005
- Received wide support of the Vietnamese community in Canada
- Political support received from: Marion Dewar, late Mayor of Ottawa; former Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli, Diane Holmes, Ottawa City Councillor for Somerset Ward; Yasir Naqvi, MPP for Ottawa Centre; Senator Mac Harb, Ottawa; Paul Dewar, MP for Ottawa Centre; Premiers: Rodney MacDonald, Nova Scotia; Pat Binns, Prince Edward Island; Shaun Graham, New Brunswick; Jean Charest, Québec; Dalton McGuinty, Ontario; Gary Doer, Manitoba; Lorne Calvert, Saskatchewan; Ralph Klein, Alberta; Gordon Campbell, British Columbia; Dennis Fentie, Yukon; Joseph Handley, Northwest Territories; Tom Hedderson, Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Total area: 15,000 sq ft
- Estimated cost: \$4,300,000 including \$600,000 for construction, 3,500,000 for the building, and \$200,000 for the interior and the exhibits.
- Has raised or obtained firm commitment for \$800,000 (including the proceeds from the sale of the property at 249 Rochester St., Ottawa). Needs to raise an additional \$3,500,000
- April 30, 2009: received the site at 105 Preston St., Ottawa (opposite corner from the Vietnamese Commemorative Monument)
- Previous fund-raising events: Ottawa (2007, 2009, 2010), Tucson, AZ (2007), San Jose, CA (2007), Winnipeg (2007)
- Fundraisers in 2011: Saskatoon (11-6), Calgary (23-7), Halifax (11-11), Edmonton (26-11), Ottawa (10-12)
- 2012-2013: continues to raise fund in Canada, the U.S., and other countries
- 2013: expected construction start

**Donations can be sent to “Vietnamese Canadian Centre /  
Museum Project”**

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