

Interview with the Shon Yee Association

Place: Office of the Shon Yee Association (612 ½ Fisgard Street)

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Interviewers: Zhongping Chen, Charles Yang

Interviewees: Paul Lum (林宝荣), chairperson of the Shon Yee Association
Kennie Chee (徐钧), former chairperson
Brian Fong (方凯源), manager of general affairs
Philip Lee (李作万), advisor
Don Ko (高玉源), member

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[The interview started with a discussion on the family history of Paul Lum, President of the Shon Yee Association]

Zhongping Chen: In your family, who was the earliest who came from China to Canada?

Paul Lum: My sister was here first; then I have to apply for job visa and all those things. Then I have to prove that I can make a living over here.

Zhongping Chen: So when did your sister come?

Paul Lum: My sister comes... 62.

Zhongping Chen: 1962... but do you come later?

Paul Lum: I came in 1971.

Zhongping Chen: 1971.

Paul Lum: Yes. When the time, um, they allow... you have to have a skill, then you have a little bit relative, something. They would let you in at that time.

Zhongping Chen: I see. So your sister was the oldest, the first in your family came...?

Paul Lum: Oldest, yes.

Zhongping Chen: How did she come?

Paul Lum: Uh, she married to a guy.

Zhongping Chen: I guess that was your fellow townsman, in... from Zhongshan.

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: When she came, what kind of job did she do?

Paul Lum: She never works. She just...

Zhongping Chen: Ah, housewife. When you come, what kind of job did you do here?

Paul Lum: I'm a cook. I was training as a cook in Hong Kong.

Zhongping Chen: You worked in Hong Kong before?

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: You came from Hong Kong directly?

Paul Lum: Yes. I came from China originally.

Don Ko: Born in China.

Zhongping Chen: When did you leave China for Hong Kong?

Paul Lum: 62.

Zhongping Chen: 1962 from China to Hong Kong?

Paul Lum: Yes. 71 I came over here. I start work in 1963 as a cook, all the way to come here, I'm still cooking.

Zhongping Chen: Let's move to your former president.

Paul Lum: Ken Chee?

Zhongping Chen: So, like your family, who's the earliest who moved from China to here?

Kennie Chee: We left China in 1949 then we stay in Hong Kong, and then my father and my sister, they came over here.

Zhongping Chen: So your father was the earliest?

Kennie Chee: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: Who came in 1950?

Kennie Chee: Early 1960, 63, 64.

Zhongping Chen: When did he leave China for Hong Kong?

Kennie Chee: 1949 before the Communist took over.

Zhongping Chen: From which township of Zhongshan did he move?

Kennie Chee: Shiqi.

Zhongping Chen: Shiqi, right, now is a city... Why did he move from there...?

Kennie Chee: Oh yeah because my sister married an overseas Chinese over here and then she applied for my father and my mother came over here first. But I was still studying in Hong Kong so I didn't come with them. By the time I graduated from the university then I was over age. But they want me to join them so I... then I apply on my own as an administrator.

Zhongping Chen: You received a university degree in Hong Kong?

Kennie Chee: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: So from which one? Which university?

Kennie Chee: Zhuhai, now one of Hong Kong Chinese university.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, a Chinese university in Hong Kong?

Kennie Chee: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: At that time, ok. When did you come from Hong Kong to here?

Kennie Chee: 1967, January.

Zhongping Chen: When you came, what kind of job did you do here?

Kennie Chee: First I work for a wholesale and then I run my own business as a grocery store and then an import and export business for a little while, yeah.

Zhongping Chen: So is the grocery store in Chinatown at first?

Kennie Chee: No, it's at the outskirts of the city.

Paul Lum: Blenkinsop. Blenkinsop, right?

Kennie Chee: Yes, and another one called Wilkinson, run a couple stores and then...

Paul Lum: And own a few places still.

Zhongping Chen: So when your father came, what kind of job did he do?

Kennie Chee: When he came here, he already retired.

Zhongping Chen: Mr. Fong, so in your family, who was the first one to come to Canada from China?

Brian Fong: My family? It's him (Paul Lum).

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you're his...?

Paul Lum: Brother-in-law.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, that's easy.

Paul Lum: All my younger sisters came in the 80's.

Zhongping Chen: Your older sister came in 62...

Paul Lum: My older sister came in 62. All my younger sisters were brought here by me. They came in 1980.

Zhongping Chen: How many people in your family in total? Your father was already here...

Paul Lum: I applied for my father to come here. In the 80's, his (Brian Fong) wife is my younger sister, so they followed her here.

Zhongping Chen: Then... because your sister was here ... He married your younger sister and immigrated here?

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: So it's like that. So your hometown is also in Zhongshan? Which village is it?

Brian Fong: Haochong. You're from Zhongshan?

Zhongping Chen: No, I went to Zhong Shan in 2009. Ok, let's move on to your family: Mr. Lee. In your family, who was the first arrival?

Philip Lee: My father was here long, long time ago.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, your father was the first?

Philip Lee: Yeah, my father.

Zhongping Chen: When did he come? Do you remember?

Philip Lee: Let me see... I think...when he is a teen about 20 he goes to Australia. And then because by the time Australia is not allowed to stay. So he had a wholesale in Australia selling the house food, all those stuff. And then after five years and when the visa is expired, he has to get back to China. He doesn't want to do that so he applied to go to United State as a merchant. So he tried to get the return visa from United State. But by the time I think he didn't get, he didn't have a chance.

Zhongping Chen: Yeah, United States was harder to get in.

Philip Lee: So he got the under way to sneak into Canada. I think that is at least...

Zhongping Chen: Like a paper son...

Philip Lee: Yes...

Zhongping Chen: That was common at that time.

Philip Lee: That is why he stayed in Canada and ... when he comes to Canada, he buys a citizenship from the person in Victoria, was pass away. They take the name out. That is why our name is different.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, your original name is?

Philip Lee: So that's why on our citizenship paper is Chan. So...

Zhongping Chen: So later he changed it back.

Philip Lee: And then ever since he used that name and used that citizenship paper because in the old day in the immigration office when people passed away, they didn't cancel the record. So they buy the man's record. Well he had been back and forth quite a few times. The last time is in 1950.

Zhongping Chen: In 1950 he came back?

Philip Lee: In 1950 back... in 1949 he went to China, and then 1950 after the liberation and then came back to here. And 1955, I was graduating in China and supposed to go to Changchun University. That's in 1955.

Zhongping Chen: That's in Manchuria, Dongbei.

Philip Lee: Because by the time, when we were graduates, everything is paid by government. I supposed to go to study as an oil engineer. But they send me to Changchun, but that's ok. I refused to go because by the time I wanted to go to... to come to Victoria. But I've been applied for couple years, for one year, more than one year, four times, and I got refused because I'm a high level knowledge person at the time in China.

Zhongping Chen: So they didn't allow you to come out.

Philip Lee: So they refused to let me come. So at the time, I have... fortunately my old man's friend is back to China. By the time, Canada has not recognized China. So in the North America, there's only one Chinese goes back to China. So they welcome him to Beijing so give him a title as North American Representative of the Chinese.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, your father's friend?

Philip Lee: Yeah. So by the time, Zhou Enlai, He Xiangling were Chinese leaders welcoming all those Chinese representatives. So he had a very high-level welcome. So until...

Paul Lum: He had money? Your father had money?

Philip Lee: Ok. When he [father's friend] got back to Guangdong, in Beijing they already notified Tao Zhu [provincial official of Guangdong province] to welcome this guy go back to China for sight- seeing. Ok, because he is my father's good friend, so Tao Zhu and the Beijing [officials] say if you have any opinion, anything you want to say, or if you need help, just let us know. So he just mentioned, he said "Oh, one of my friends in Canada he is running the wooden business." You know plywood business. So they misunderstood. They said that my father is the big guy and he's running the big factory. Ok so they thought my father is a billionaire. So that guy said he [Lee's father] was supposed to come together with me but he had a business that cannot get away. But he wants to bring his son over there to manage, to help manage the business before he can retire. So at the time, I'm just graduated from... You're supposed to go to university in China, right? But by the time in Guangdong government Tao Zhu, they send a special... commissioner to my place to interview me, then ask me to go to Canton, Guangzhou. So I had a very good trip because they thought I'm the very special person. So I lived in Guangzhou in the foreign office for one month. For one month they treat me very good and bring me out for entertainment, to see all the other stuff and give me the special permit to go to Hong Kong right away. By the time, I know nothing because I don't know the situation, so I thought I have a relative in Macau, so it's more convenient from Macau to go to Hong Kong. But actually at the same time, Hong Kong, they have the riot.

Zhongping Chen: Oh yeah in 1960s...

Paul Lum: 66.

Philip Lee: Before that, 1950 something. Since the riot, they limit Hong Kong people back to China, and then they allow few Chinese people to go to Hong Kong. So I'm worrying about how can I get to Hong Kong but actually, that commissioner says everything is ok. So I suppose to go from Guangzhou to Hong Kong, I can... They can put me in the first place. But I refused to. So I [went there] from Macau, when I passed the customs from China to... I got nothing [travel document]. They just call me: "Mr. Lee, you are welcome," not search or anything. But for the other people they search everything. They treat me just like the first class. So ever since, I was here but I lived in Hong Kong for three years before I come to Canada.

Zhongping Chen: Do you know the name of your father's friend? Who was that?

Philip Lee: Feng Tian [冯添].

Zhongping Chen: Oh Feng Tian. He came from Canada?

Philip Lee: Oh, he already passed away but his wife still here.

Paul Lum: He was here?

Zhongping Chen: Oh, he was living here before.

Philip Lee: That is the time he got back to China to get married, to remarry.

Zhongping Chen: He seemed to be close to the Communist government.

Philip Lee: Well, if he's still alive, he should be 105, 110.

Paul Lum: I think he's just a Chinese Canadian.

Philip Lee: But he is very active in the Hook Sin Tong. He's active, he'd ever been Hook Sin Tong's chairperson.

Zhongping Chen: Also in Freemasons?

Paul Lum: Not a Freemason. At that time, they thought that he was a very important person of the association. It could have possibly been like that.

Zhongping Chen: Do you think you can remember your father, approximately when he went to Australia?

Paul Lum: He's a teenager at the time I believe.

Philip Lee: Possibly when he went to Australia? possibly in 1935, something like that. Well, no, maybe 1930 because that's before I was born.

Zhongping Chen: So then he stayed for five years...?

Philip Lee: And then go to United State.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, he went to the United States?

Philip Lee: Yeah, went to the United States. So he worked there as a butcher.

Zhongping Chen: Where? In which city...

Philip Lee: Oh, San Francisco. That's possibly in 1935, something, and then come to Canada. Then went back to China.

Zhongping Chen: When did he come to Canada? Can you remember?

Philip Lee: Possibly it's between 1935, 1934, something like that. Come to Canada and then he got the visa and then back to China to get married. Then that is when I was born.

Zhongping Chen: Let's move to Mr. Ko. So in your family, who was the earliest who came here?

Don Ko: My family was... My grandfather is earliest I think.

Zhongping Chen: Grandfather... And do you know his name?

Don Ko: He was running a business long time ago over here, and he applied for my uncle come to Canada the same time. And then my uncle applied for my sister from Hong Kong to Canada, and then I... my sister applied for me to Canada from Hong Kong.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you actually lived in Hong Kong when you came.

Don Ko: But I was born in China.

Zhongping Chen: Like your grandfather, what kind of job he was doing in Canada?

Don Ko: I think he's doing a small business.

Zhongping Chen: Small business... Which year did he came... do you remember which year?

Don Ko: That's all I know.

Zhongping Chen: When your uncle came, what kind of job did he do?

Don Ko: You mean my uncle? He also ran the grocery store here. About 1920, 1930.10

Zhongping Chen: And then after your uncle was...?

Don Ko: My uncle applied for my sister from Hong Kong. My sister is from Macau.

Zhongping Chen: I see, Macau, and then you were from Hong Kong.

Don Ko: I was born in China and then I... I had difficult to come out from... to get the visa. Finally, I have to swim into Macau.

Zhongping Chen: From Zhongshan?

Don Ko: Yeah, from Zhuhai.

Zhongping Chen: Really? That's a long way. I actually took a ferry there.

Paul Lum: Because they don't allow people to go to Macau and Hong Kong at the time, because they [Ko] are teenagers at the time.

Don Ko: They don't allow us to come out.

Zhongping Chen: Even in Hong Kong?

Don Ko: No, I was swimming to Macau ...

Zhongping Chen: From Zhuhai to Macau?

Don Ko: Zhuhai. At the time we don't have a job; we don't have school. That's why we come out.

Zhongping Chen: Which year was that?

Don Ko: 1969 to 1970.

Zhongping Chen: Yeah, during the Cultural Revolution. They did not allow people to come out.

Don Ko: After that I go to Hong Kong from Macau and then I come here.

Zhongping Chen: Probably we can move to the association. Actually the article is not very clear about who founded this association here. Can you remember the names of the founders here? You probably wrote somewhere.

Paul Lum: The founders are over here (point to a picture). They all come from the Freemasons, seven of them.

Zhongping Chen: Why did they all come from the Freemasons?

Paul Lum: At the time, Freemasons was the place for all the Chinese people. At the time they thought their townsmen had no one watching them, no one helping them. So they established an association to take care of their townsmen.

Zhongping Chen: Oh it's like that.

Paul Lum: Yeah, it is like that.

Zhongping Chen: Their names are read from...? Oh they have names. This is Yang Linguang, Lei Gen and then Sun Peiquan, Lin Sanhe...

Philip Lee: This guy's same as this guy...but not a freemason.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you're saying this one isn't from the Freemasons?

Paul Lum: Not him, not a Freemason at the time.

Zhongping Chen: Is he in that picture as well?

Paul Lum: Li Wanyen? he is not in it.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, he's not in it. Oh this is a president?

Paul Lum: This is the first president.

Zhongping Chen: But he isn't in it?

Paul Lum: There's a picture of him saying he's a member, the first president. But the founders, the first group, doesn't have him there. You see that?

Kennie Chee: Here's the few who started the movement. Actually at first... forgot his name. The first generation had a group of members.

Paul Lum: This is probably a member of the first generation [point at another picture].

Philip Lee: At the time of establishment, the first generation established the association.

Paul Lum: This is Lin Chang, in the past over 1,000 people at this funeral.

Zhongping Chen: So...

Paul Lum: Look at this. So the meaning of our group is similar to the Freemason's. We also need to light incense...

Zhongping Chen: It's still the same now?

Paul Lum: It's still the same. We call each other brothers. Our brothers with different surnames.

Philip Lee: Belong to the big family.

Zhongping Chen: So it actually started from Victoria... Vancouver?

Kennie Chee: Vancouver. Vancouver... was 1914.

Paul Lum: We were 1918, Calgary was 1922.

Zhongping Chen: This is headquarters [point to a picture]?

Paul Lum: This is our branch. This is the headquarters. The headquarters is in Vancouver.

Zhongping Chen: Vancouver in 1914, and then here in 1918, and then Calgary in 1922.

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: Do you have any idea like how many people were in the association in Victoria when it was established in 1918? How many people?

Paul Lum: At that time, we had over 100 people.

Philip Lee: Because by the time, Victoria is the basic... They gathered together in Victoria.

Zhongping Chen: Yeah, all the Chinese...

Philip Lee: And then they go to Duncan, Nanaimo.

Paul Lum: All the Chinese people came here first. So at that time there were a lot of Chinese people here.

Zhongping Chen: So the people in the association were about 100...

Philip Lee: They gathered together in Victoria.

Zhongping Chen: All of them came from Zhongshan?

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: Do you know most of them came from which lineage? I mean like big surnames. Lin I think is a big surname at that time.

Paul Lum: Lees were the most abundant.

Kennie Chee: If you were a part of the Shon Yee, then most of the people had the surname Lei.

Paul Lum: The surname Lei had the most people.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, Lei had the most.

Paul Lum: In Calgary a lot were Leis. Vancouver was Zheng.

Zhongping Chen: Zheng... Oh Vancouver. Calgary is...

Paul Lum: Here is Lee, Victoria has more Lees.

Zhongping Chen: Oh Victoria is Lee. But Lum [Lin] is also a big name?

Paul Lum: Lum is.. yeah, Lum is the big name too. In Victoria, it's a big name too.

Zhongping Chen: So Lei in Calgary, that's the largest surname. Zheng in Vancouver and Lee here. I heard... I read from this book: this association, when it was established, it would not accept the Lius.

Paul Lum: That is the history.

Zhongping Chen: So why was that?

Paul Lum: Why is that... I think when at the time, the Lius were from our county. They were a big surname.

Zhongping Chen: In Zhongshan?

Paul Lum: Zhongshan, a big surname. A lot of villages were of the Lius.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, Liu is a big surname of Zhongshan.

Paul Lum: At the time, the Lius were mostly taking care of their own brothers, people of the same surname, their friends. At the time, finding jobs or doing anything was the same. So...

Zhongping Chen: So it was the Lius caring for other Lius.

Paul Lum: There were different perspectives. There were some Lius who thought being a big surname could mean bullying the smaller surnames. It could have possibly been like that.

Zhongping Chen: That was in Vancouver, not here, I guess?

Paul Lum: In Vancouver, not here. Because a lot of Lius worked in the sawmills. The managers at the sawmills were Caucasians, right? So the Liu chief would not let us work there, right? So we all had a difference in perspective at that time. So these people established their own association of other surnames. It was possibly like that.

Zhongping Chen: So here the Lius...

Paul Lum: In Victoria, there was no problem.

Zhongping Chen: So actually they used the exact same ceremony like the Chinese Freemasons?

Paul Lum: Regarding the Lius, it's in the past now. We need to help each other and communicate with each other, right?

Kennie Chee: We're all friends now, no problems.

Zhongping Chen: Especially right now...

Philip Lee: The new generation they don't even know or forgot about all the past history. So we are looking forward to help each other, to still have a nice relationship.

Zhongping Chen: When you join the association, do you need somebody to introduce you to this association?

Paul Lum: Yeah, you have two members...

Zhongping Chen: Two members like guarantors...

Paul Lum: To introduce one of these guys once a year.

Philip Lee: Every year conventions.

Paul Lum: While you have to introduce one of your friends come to our club then you're only allowed once a year.

Zhongping Chen: Each year they're allowed each person to introduce one person? That is very strict.

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: And each person has two persons to introduce to...

Kennie Chee: Sponsor, we call sponsor. We have to sponsor. We have the two members to sponsor and then still go through some steps. That's why we don't have that many members.

Zhongping Chen: Does a person need to pay a membership fee?

Paul Lum: Yes, they have to.

Philip Lee: Basic member fee.

Zhongping Chen: How much would that be?

Paul Lum: That's a few hundred dollars.

Zhongping Chen: Three hundred dollars?

Paul Lum: Maybe four hundred something.

Zhongping Chen: That's lifelong membership fee?

Paul Lum: Lifelong.

Kennie Chee: It's one time.

Paul Lum: One time fee.

Zhongping Chen: So right now how many members in this association?

Paul Lum: We have 80 people right now.

Zhongping Chen: So it's actually less than it was before.

Paul Lum: Yeah. Of course because a lot of members moved to Vancouver, make a living over there.

Zhongping Chen: So most members are... how old are they right now?

Paul Lum: Most members right now... most are 60 over.

Zhongping Chen: Over 60 years old.

Paul Lum: Approximately 25 percent are between the ages of 40 and 50.

Zhongping Chen: 25 percent are below 50.

Paul Lum: Approximately 25 percent are between 20 and 40. Roughly that.

Zhongping Chen: Older ones...

Paul Lum: Older ones are more.

Zhongping Chen: So all of them came from Zhongshan county?

Paul Lum: All came from Zhongshan. The young ones are born here.

Zhongping Chen: Local born but the father came from Zhongshan.

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: How many Zhongshan people here? If you have 100 members...

Paul Lum: In Victoria?

Zhongping Chen: Do you have any idea how many?

Kennie Chee: For the past ten or fifteen years we have so many Zhongshan immigrants over here. So before we do have like what we call... from Zhongshan. When we first came we all reported to the Hook Sin Tong before, long time ago. Then we know how many Zhongshan people over here. But now nobody knows.

Philip Lee: Now it's different because in the old day most are from Guangdong, from Zhongshan. From Guangdong or Taishan or... Right now even some from north China. That's different.

Kennie Chee: There are more people from north China, more people speaking Mandarin.

Philip Lee: Even Xinjiang, they come here too.

Zhongping Chen: It's understandable in the older days people had to help each other. Right now why do people still join this association?

Paul Lum: I think some of them are for friendship.

Zhongping Chen: For friendship.

Paul Lum: Second is that we want the younger one to take over the older, right? To keep the club going.

Zhongping Chen: Introduce them to this association?

Paul Lum: Yeah, so that's mainly the important thing.

Zhongping Chen: So what kind of activities do you have?

Paul Lum: We have in here, this one first [show a schedule].

Zhongping Chen: Celebration activities. Every Sunday you have...

Paul Lum: Saturday, ping pong.

Zhongping Chen: So that's Saturday and Sunday.

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, that's Saturday.

Philip Lee: This is the general activities right now.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you have karaoke, and every year you have Spring Festival, and... what is... for worshiping ancestor?

Philip Lee: Go worship at the cemetery.

Zhongping Chen: That is the time of Qingming.

Paul Lum: Qingming.

Zhongping Chen: So you have to make an annual donation to the seniors?

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: I haven't heard other association did that.

Paul Lum: There are some that do not do that. They don't have income. We do have income though. Although there aren't a lot, but it's still something we need to do.

Zhongping Chen: Actually, the first time I heard...

Paul Lum: [To] the CCBA... when we donate or do something, we have to participate [its activities], right? If something happens in our home country or something happens in Taiwan, we have to do something.

Zhongping Chen: I haven't heard other associations give money to the CCBA.

Kennie Chee: CCBA is...

Paul Lum: They have responsibility. We too have responsibility to support them.

Kennie Chee: Basically this is our original tradition. We all become a part of a big family. We also support the society for the charity, for all the activities about the Chinese.

Zhongping Chen: Do you have any idea like every year how much you need to donate to the CCBA?

Paul Lum: \$500 every year. Also, every five years, [for] the lion dance. We give the care centre about \$500 every year. The Victoria Senior Society is the same as well, it's \$500.

Zhongping Chen: Senior Society is at the Chinese Canadian Friendship Association?

Kennie Chee: Yeah.

Paul Lum: The United Way is the Caucasian's, it's also \$500.

Zhongping Chen: United Way is not a Chinese organization.

Paul Lum: Not Chinese.

Kennie Chee: Local.

Zhongping Chen: Wow, you make so many donations!

Paul Lum: For the community it is about \$1,000.

Zhongping Chen: Donation to the community...

Paul Lum: On average, sometimes it's over \$1,000. The lanterns on the streets were by us, donated \$2,000.

Zhongping Chen: Oh this actually paid by the community?

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Zhongping Chen: I assumed that was paid by the government.

Paul Lum: No, the government paid only a part. It was [also paid by] our association.

Kennie Chee: It was the Municipal government. The Municipal government took part in it. A lot of associations have it too. But this association contributed about \$2,000, I think \$2,000.

Paul Lum: The Gate of Harmonious Interest is also the same. During renovations it was the same.

Zhongping Chen: I did not realize it actually was also built by the community.

Paul Lum: Our community... support some of them.

Zhongping Chen: Do you have any idea like this association how much do you donate to all the different places? Do you have any idea?

Paul Lum: Approximately \$5,000.

Zhongping Chen: \$5000 a year?

Paul Lum: A year.

Zhongping Chen: Wow, that's a lot. So most of the money just comes from different members or from this association itself?

Paul Lum: Come from our society.

Philip Lee: The branch.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, from this branch?

Paul Lum: Sometimes it's donated by members.

Zhongping Chen: How does this association fund itself. Where does it come from? I mean where does its money come from.

Paul Lum: At the time, you know, at the time when we bought this estate...

Zhongping Chen: Which year was that?

Paul Lum: 1935. It was the entire Shon Yee Association's members who each donated \$10 or \$5 to buy this estate. And thereafter, every month... every year we give interest to them. Every year we give back to them. That's how it came about. That's how the first estate came about.

Zhongping Chen: So before 1935, where was this association...

Paul Lum: We were renting from the other side. Wong's... the lawyer.

Zhongping Chen: Which building?

Paul Lum: Larry Wong's building.

Philip Lee: Under Dart Coon Club.

Paul Lum: We rented from there.

Zhongping Chen: How did you collect donation for this building?

Paul Lum: Yeah, this was called Baizihui [Hundred Sons' Club].

Zhongping Chen: Baizihui? I read about it, I think. You got exactly 100 persons?

Paul Lum: You have \$10, you give \$10. You have \$5, you give \$5. I give you interest.

Zhongping Chen: The association give you back the...

Kennie Chee: There's no interest.

Philip Lee: See in the old day, when a project set up in the association, they are in need of finance. They suggest the rich people, if they want to spare more money... if you want to spare \$1,000, I can only spare \$10, that's fine, that's welcome. And then until the association is rich enough then they pick the names by random every year, say five people or five names ... No matter it's ten years later, twenty years or fifty years later, so when your name comes up, the association pays back the original you lend out. That is the appreciation for your help with the association. That is [the practice] in Chinese community. They always do it like that. They just say yes or no without any profit.

Zhongping Chen: Is this still going on...

Paul Lum: Not anymore, we go to the bank now.

Zhongping Chen: When did it stop?

Paul Lum: You already have the association, so it's no longer needed.

Zhongping Chen: So you got the income mainly from the rent?

Paul Lum: Rent, yeah.

Zhongping Chen: From this building?

Paul Lum: From this building and next door.

Zhongping Chen: Oh you have another building?

Paul Lum: Yes.

Philip Lee: I think we bought this building. it's \$3,000.

Zhongping Chen: \$3000? In 1935.

Philip Lee: No, it's 1915, isn't it? When we bought the building.

Paul Lum: That's 1935.

Zhongping Chen: [Looking at a picture] That one is... oh that is 1927.

Paul Lum: But when we bought the building, it was 1935. We bought the building in 1935.

Philip Lee: That's what we pay, it's \$3,000.

Kennie Chee: No, less than that. \$1,800.

Philip Lee: Actually the \$3,000 is from Vancouver headquarters. It's not from our branch because the headquarter they have the money to support us. So they give us the money to buy that building.

Zhongping Chen: So you know Sun Yat-sen, he also came from Zhongshan.

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: Did this association support Sun Yat-sen in any way?

Paul Lum: At the time, most of our ancestors were from the Freemasons.

Zhongping Chen: Right. Freemasons were with Sun Yat-sen.

Paul Lum: Majority were Freemasons, so most members of the Freemasons only donated to the Freemasons. We Zhongshan people, according to an old timer, they would not dare to give directly to Sun Yat-sen. They would only give to the Freemasons.

Zhongping Chen: Right, that makes sense.

Paul Lum: Because they had wives, families back in the countryside.

Kennie Chee: In China.

Paul Lum: Didn't want to affect their families. So no one helped to communicate with Sun Yat-sen, to directly donate money to him. They mostly donated to the Freemasons.

Zhongping Chen: Almost 100 percent of your members join the Freemasons...

Paul Lum: The majority of them before.

Zhongping Chen: The majority. But they had to pay money to two associations. Oh, no. Actually this is just lifelong membership fee.

Paul Lum: Freemasons was the earliest one. We established in 1918. Freemasons was established thirty years earlier.

Zhongping Chen: But why would people join two associations? After you join one association, you got help from others already.

Kennie Chee: Because this only belongs to the Zhongshan people. Freemasons is different, you know.

Zhongping Chen: For different people...

Philip Lee: Its national...

Paul Lum: Right now a lot of our members are also part of the Freemasons.

Zhongping Chen: Also Freemasons.

Paul Lum: Especially in Vancouver, there's more. Most of the presidents were also from the Freemasons. Right now, a few terms ago... the current president of the headquarters is also part of the Freemasons. Shon Yee's presidents are also Freemason's big brothers.

Kennie Chee: In the past like Huang Huazhen, Huang Huajin...

Kennie Chee: Our headquarters' president, it's been about 20 years, he was born in Vancouver and also a part of the Freemasons. There's also Jian Jianping (简建平).

Zhongping Chen: Oh Jian Jianping, he frequently writes about the Freemasons.

Paul Lum: He was our president for many years.

Zhongping Chen: Oh I didn't know. When this association was established in 1918, the Hook Sin Tong, the Hook Sin Association was there already.

Kennie Chee: Yeah, they were already there.

Zhongping Chen: What was the relation between the Hook Sin and this association?

Paul Lum: Hook Sin Tong, they established a little earlier.

Kennie Chee: Also, Hook Sin Tong, any Zhongshan persons can join. You just give the association fee and you can join. But it's different here. You need to have a sponsor, and we have to see the person ...

Paul Lum: Their moral character...

Zhongping Chen: It's more like a...

Philip Lee: Hook Sin Tong, as long as you are the Zhongshan citizen you automatically become the membership. But Shon Yee is something like more or less like corporation. We work together...

Paul Lum: We call each other brother.

Philip Lee: It's by our will...

Paul Lum: That's our most importance...

Kennie Chee: We are sworn brothers.

Zhongping Chen: No matter older or younger?

Paul Lum: Older, younger, same.

Philip Lee: Because we have the basic membership fee for help ... our Shon Yee Association has to build up, to support all our society, charity activities. And also in the old day we help our members, if our members have a

hardship. All the members just treat each other like family, like the brothers.

Kennie Chee: We help each other, you know.

Philip Lee: In one time in 1927, something like that, that is the whole world's economic drop...

Zhongping Chen: The depression.

Philip Lee: Lots of our members lost their job. They live together in our group.

Zhongping Chen: Oh they could live...

Paul Lum: Live here.

Philip Lee: And then everybody if you have a dollar, you put a dollar out. If you have 50 cents, you put 50 cents to cook together and live together. So we treat us like brothers. That is to help each other to get by with the hardship.

Zhongping Chen: Usually, you know, people from one county they will just form one association. Zhongshan people are different. You have two associations. So what was relation between Hook Sin and this association?

Paul Lum: In Victoria we never have any problems.

Kennie Chee: I was the Hook Sin Tong chairman, and he (point at Philip Lee) was the Hook Sin Tong chairman too.

Philip Lee: And is also the Shon Yee's past chairman too.

Zhongping Chen: When was you chairman of Hook Sin?

Philip Lee: 1960, 62. I'm the chairperson in Hook Sin Tong and then 1963, 64, Mr. Chee is the chairperson of Hook Sin Tong.

Zhongping Chen: So basically the relation...

Paul Lum: Basically, we are very close.

Philip Lee: And then I join the Shon Yee, I become the president of the branch and also he's the past president too (point at Kennie Chee).

Zhongping Chen: So there is no conflict between them?

Paul Lum: No.

Philip Lee: Yeah, but we never mix up with the activities because when we go there we are the membership of over there. We still keep the membership. We're still taking part of the activity, but we never mix up.

Paul Lum: Approximately 25 percent of the brothers [in Shon Yee] belong to Hook Sin Tong.

Zhongping Chen: You are very busy. You belong to the Chinese Freemasons, and also...

Philip Lee: Yeah, that's something he mentions about. A lot of our brothers in Vancouver, they belong to the Freemasons.

Zhongping Chen: I mean one person involves in 3 associations will be very busy.

Paul Lum: Yes, well Freemasons were the earliest right? They join the Freemasons till now and then come to our Shon Yee Association.

Zhongping Chen: If I do not come here, I'd never know this relationship of this association. Like right now I noticed you have your association and the general association in Vancouver, and they have... every year they have different activities? Let's see, in May the Vancouver association would have...

Kennie Chee: Convention, yeah.

Zhongping Chen: Convention. So all the members will join the convention?

Paul Lum: Yes.

Kennie Chee: If you have time you can join. But it's up to the members.

Philip Lee: That is part of our tradition. So when we set up any branch, we set a certain day to visit each other to make our groups more tightly to belong to. It's like a whole family. So in the old day when we in finance have problem, we never stop. We always, the rich member give more money. That is why every time we visit Vancouver, we give some of the donation, give it to them to help to carry on our tradition.

Zhongping Chen: Like this convention, what kind of activities do they have? For conventions I mean.

Paul Lum: Ok, convention...

Zhongping Chen: How many days usually?

Paul Lum: Most of them two and a half days.

Zhongping Chen: Two and a half days and then just speeches, give speeches and parties, I guess?

Paul Lum: Speeches and meeting. Party in the night time.

Kennie Chee: And then we review the whole year what did we do and anything.

Zhongping Chen: Like report.

Philip Lee: The general purpose is to remind the new member to tell them, to teach them why our association is set up, why we have to get up the activity to help each other, and also we welcome the new member to join our club, to explain to everybody our main activity for the whole year. So everything is open.

Zhongping Chen: Like in August you will go to Calgary...

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: For the association, so that is basically the same, the convention is the same in Calgary?

Paul Lum: Same but we have less people there, maybe just representatives. Some members go travelling, and they follow the representative, maybe 10, 20 people a year.

Zhongping Chen: So there will be more people in Vancouver?

Paul Lum: More people in Vancouver.

Zhongping Chen: So in September this...

Paul Lum: They come over here.

Zhongping Chen: They come here.

Paul Lum: So Vancouver usually send 200, over 200 people here. Calgary, 20 people.

Zhongping Chen: To have meeting here?

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Philip Lee: We rent a hall.

Paul Lum: We can't do it here, it's dangerous. Last time we used two floors.

Kennie Chee: It's not big enough, this building. We have to use that hall next to the CCBA, the downstairs.

Paul Lum: They call Ambrosia. It's more comfortable that way.

Zhongping Chen: So every September?

Paul Lum: Every September.

Philip Lee: Every year, every September.

Zhongping Chen: So this started from the beginning? You mean from...

Paul Lum: No, just did it for last seven years.

Zhongping Chen: Seven years?

Paul Lum: Seven years, do it over there. Before we all the time using these two floors.

Zhongping Chen: So you mean start from 2003, 2004?

Paul Lum: Around there. We rent the hall instead. Before we just do it over here, but we feel uncomfortable because too many people here.

Zhongping Chen: I mean like each association has the meeting, this started from the beginning?

Paul Lum: From beginning, long time ago.

Philip Lee: That is to become to the traditions.

Paul Lum: We just want to connect everybody together.

Philip Lee: Same as the family visiting.

Paul Lum: Visiting family.

Zhongping Chen: So right now in Canada you s have three branches. One in Victoria, one in Vancouver, and another in Calgary...?

Paul Lum: Calgary and...

Zhongping Chen: Why not in Toronto? There's more people in Toronto.

Paul Lum: I think it is hard to say... It's the money.

Kennie Chee: The association, we have some principle like if in that city we have like 20 people over there, or 30 members over there, and then they can apply to the headquarters then to set up there. But still they don't... not that many members over in Toronto. So that's why there's no branch in other cities.

Zhongping Chen: So outside of Canada, does this association have any branches?

Kennie Chee: No.

Zhongping Chen: In China, like in Zhongshan?

Kennie Chee: No.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, this is unique.

Kennie Chee: Because originally it's from here, well that's the idea, right? If in Toronto, maybe in the future, they will... if we have more members over there, they might.... They can set up a branch over there.

Zhongping Chen: I lived in Hawaii, Honolulu for a long time. Honolulu has a lot of Zhongshan people.

Kennie Chee: Zhongshan...

Zhongping Chen: Why this association does not establish a branch in Honolulu?

Kennie Chee: They don't need it. Zhongshan people in Hawaii has got no... That's why Sun Yat-sen went to Hawaii first.

Zhongping Chen: Right. Like your members, most of them came from different townships of Zhongshan, or they came from specific townships like Longdu ...

Paul Lum: Most of them... half of them are from Longdu.

Zhongping Chen: Half?

Paul Lum: Half the member is Longdu.

Zhongping Chen: Why Longdu people... so many Longdu people?

Paul Lum: I also do not know. But it's the majority of people around Zhongshan city.

Kennie Chee: It was probably like that, at that time Longdu people were abundant.

Don Ko: They living in Longdu...

Kennie Chee: That is, during the early years they're people were abundant.

Philip Lee: Because in 100 years ago when Canada going to build the railway ... that is the port for most Chinese. They land into Canada, they start in Victoria.

That is why all, and then gradually go to Vancouver, go to Duncan, go to Nanaimo and then Calgary and then Toronto.

Kennie Chee: No, he's asking why there's a lot of Longdu people, the members. He's right, most of our members are from Longdu.

Philip Lee: Actually not necessary, it depends, in Vancouver... But because in China, Longdu and Liangdu and...

Don Ko: Dedu.

Philip Lee: And Dedu, that is the different district. Say something like in Chinese custom, Chinese habit, if I'm coming to Victoria, I'm always thinking of my cousin, to bring my cousin over here, and when two people here become four people here, and then become to eight people here. The same thing, like most Chinese, even the Zhongshan Chinese go to San Francisco, they have lots more in San Francisco.

Paul Lum: Maybe Longdu people start here first.

Kennie Chee: Then they start first.

Philip Lee: Actually Longdu is the big district because the Longdu have twelve district [townships?]. So they have lots of people. Even they speak the local dialect, they become the same. They treat themselves like the same.

Paul Lum: Maybe five fifth of the ...

Kennie Chee: Their dialect we don't understand, we don't know.

Zhongping Chen: I heard Longdu dialect is very hard...

Philip Lee: So they two speak the same dialect, and we two speak the same dialect...

Zhongping Chen: Can you understand each other's dialects?

Philip Lee: Well I do understand but I don't talk their own dialect. But these two guys and they come together, they sit and talk.

Zhongping Chen: You are from Longdu?

Paul Lum: Yes.

Zhongping Chen: So Longdu...

Paul Lum: There's two out of three, and two out of five.

Zhongping Chen: Longdu is quite famous. I went to Zhongshan, everybody knew that. What's relationship between this association and others like CCBA?

Paul Lum: CCBA... We are just a member.

Kennie Chee: CCBA is composed of all the associations in Victoria. So it's...

Paul Lum: The big brother.

Kennie Chee: Approximately 28 associations.

Paul Lum: We send three representatives to attend the meeting every month.

Zhongping Chen: Did anybody from this association become like a chairman in the CCBA.

Paul Lum: He is.

Philip Lee: He is the vice president.

Zhongping Chen: Which year was that?

Kennie Chee: I was the president in 1974.

Zhongping Chen: President of CCBA from 1974 until when?

Kennie Chee: But I was the vice president from 1969 to 1974, and then 74 I was run there. I'm still the committee member.

Zhongping Chen: So they will just elect anybody...?

Kennie Chee: Yeah, from all the members of other organizations, they elect the president. And then the supervisor and then the president appoint all the other positions for the... about 80 committee members.

Zhongping Chen: Oh by the way, do you know the names of the chairmen of this association from 1918? Can you remember the names?

Paul Lum: Right now.

Kennie Chee: Bring him a copy.

Paul Lum: Where's the book? It's over there.

Zhongping Chen: You have your own publication? Oh this is history of your association?

Zhongping Chen: You have the list of all the leaders...

Kennie Chee: But only from 85...

Zhongping Chen: From 85...

Paul Lum: 85...

Zhongping Chen: To 94.

Paul Lum: It's fairly early. Here, this is the earliest.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, this is the earliest. They did not put the years ...

Paul Lum: Cannot find the years. Years can be found here. This has it.

Zhongping Chen: Like in your impression, after you came here, what are the major changes in Chinatown? From when you came, you came later in 19...

Paul Lum: 70, 71.

Kennie Chee: There's more development. Like across the street that's a new building.

Paul Lum: There's less people in Chinatown.

Zhongping Chen: So less Chinese people?

Paul Lum: Back then when I came everybody spoke Taishan dialect.

Kennie Chee: Nobody spoke Mandarin. Right now you see...

Paul Lum: Nobody spoke Mandarin. Very few people spoke Guangzhou dialect. People from Guangzhou were speaking in the Taishan dialect.

Zhongping Chen: How about Zhongshan dialect?

Kennie Chee: Including Zhongshan dialect.

Paul Lum: Zhongshan dialect was also spoken by few. But when they were in Chinatown...

Kennie Chee: Were also Taishan.

Paul Lum: Everybody basically all spoke Taishan dialect. I felt like why are so many people speaking Taishan dialect? They came a little earlier.

Zhongping Chen: There were many Taishan people?

Paul Lum: Yes. At that time they...

Philip Lee: Actually they have more people here. That's why they have 100, more than 130 years of history here.

Paul Lum: At that time Kaiping, Taishan, Enping, they...

Kennie Chee: Panyuu.

Paul Lum: All spoke Taishan dialect.

Zhongping Chen: Right. Siyi people, they speak same dialect.

Paul Lum: They were the first to come here. So that's why it's like that.

Philip Lee: See I was told they have their own tradition: if you come to here, you have to bring one of your relatives over otherwise you lost face in China.

Zhongping Chen: Really?

Philip Lee: Yeah, that is why they always, no matter how hard they make money, they always try to bring another people come over.

Zhongping Chen: This like a Taishan tradition?

Philip Lee: Yeah, that becomes a habit to help their family...

Paul Lum: The fellow members of the family.

Philip Lee: To come over here to make a better living. That is why.

Zhongping Chen: That was also like a Zhongshan tradition? Or all the Chinese tradition?

Philip Lee: No, no, Taishan.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, Taishan tradition?

Philip Lee: That is why they have more people, more Taishan peoples in Canada.

Paul Lum: His uncle, his father, his grandfather brought his uncle here. Uncle applied for his daughter to come here. You know?

Philip Lee: So they always ... generation by generation, always try to bring more people to come over.

Zhongping Chen: So Mr. Chee, in your impression, what other changes in Chinatown? Like in the past few decades? Apart from...

Kennie Chee: It's not that long but I feel that time when... after world war, two years over here seems like I know everybody. But now you don't know anyone.

Zhongping Chen: At that time how...

Kennie Chee: Because not that many newcomers, right? And town was so small. That time, that's my feeling. And then right now everyday you can see, you don't know that many people.

Zhongping Chen: New faces...

Paul Lum: I think Chinese people's lifestyle is very close. They don't live here, they live on the outskirts.

Zhongping Chen: Right, moved out of Chinatown.

Paul Lum: They don't come here for shopping, right? Also having to drive here.

Kennie Chee: Same as in Vancouver. In the old Chinatown, now it's no use for it. That's the Richmond now. It's a city.

Zhongping Chen: So right now Mr. Lum, which part of the city you are living in?

Paul Lum: I'm living in the Gordon Head.

Zhongping Chen: Gordon Head. How often do you come to Chinatown?

Paul Lum: Maybe once every two week.

Zhongping Chen: For what? Only for the association?

Paul Lum: Only for association stuff.

Zhongping Chen: Not for shopping or something?

Paul Lum: No. Not just for shopping.

Kennie Chee: Before you have to come to get the Chinese stuff over here.

Paul Lum: Yeah.

Kennie Chee: But now all the supermarket, they sell all the Chinese grocery too.

Philip Lee: That is why he and me can become the president because when we come over in 1960, that is the transition period. The older generation, they retire back to China or those pass away, and the new guy is very, very few to come over. So we, when we come over, we are what they say we are the knowledgeable, so they know we can carry on the duty to become to chair the... the association. So that is why when I come over in 1960, 1961-62, but we become the chairpersons. So that's the tradition, we don't even know much about it. But they thought we are the knowledge people because in the older generation they don't have that level of knowledge or education.

Zhongping Chen: Like Mr. Lee in your case, where are you living in the city right now? Which part?

Kennie Chee: Gordon Head. Are you living in Gordon Head?

Paul Lum: Gordon Head.

Philip Lee: I live just behind the university.

Zhongping Chen: Ok, so how often do you come to Chinatown?

Philip Lee: Not very often, maybe twice a month or something like that. You mean to go to Chinatown?

Zhongping Chen: Yeah.

Philip Lee: Yeah because basically right now we don't even... in the 20 years, 30 years ago we go down to Chinatown, we come to Chinatown, we almost know half of the people around there. Right now we don't even know one or two. Fortunately, we can meet one of the friends here. That is why we always... shop to the supermarket.

Zhongping Chen: So do you come to the association's activities every Saturday?

Philip Lee: When we have the meeting here.

Zhongping Chen: Just come to...

Philip Lee: Meeting.

Zhongping Chen: Meeting. You do not come to the activities? Like ping pong.

Philip Lee: Well unless I come down here to play ping pong or for karaoke or something like that for...

Zhongping Chen: But not every week?

Philip Lee: Not every week.

Zhongping Chen: So you cannot get... usually you cannot get 100 people come here at same time? Mr. Chee in your case, where are you living in the city?

Kennie Chee: Esquimalt. That's not very far from there.

Zhongping Chen: Yeah, Esquimalt. Do you come to Chinatown very often?

Kennie Chee: I come over here almost everyday.

Zhongping Chen: Everyday?

Kennie Chee: Because too many... Not just over here and then I sometimes... school they have a meeting once a month or twice they have to...

Paul Lum: He belongs to the board of representative of the club to CCBA.

Zhongping Chen: Which centre?

Kennie Chee: CCBA. I am representing this association.

Zhongping Chen: Oh, you have to attend the meetings?

Paul Lum: So he has to be meeting over there.

Kennie Chee: And they anytime... function...

Paul Lum: What's your title this year?

Paul Lum: What's the title this year?

Kennie Chee: I'm the auditor.

Paul Lum: Auditor.

Kennie Chee: I'm auditing the statement, the financial statement.

Zhongping Chen: So in your general impression, what is major problem in our Chinatown today? Is any major problem do you think should be solved?

Paul Lum: It's not busy enough. Isn't it?

Kennie Chee: But a few years ago, there's a problem with those people, the street people.

Paul Lum: I can see them, homeless people. The other day I went to dinner over there, and there's a guy reading the book all day over there. With... in front of ... noodle house? The noodle house next to Foo Hong, that shop is closing on Sunday or I think it's closed forever. They're closed on Sunday?

Kennie Chee: They closed for a few days, I don't know why.

Paul Lum: So the guy just sleeps there all day.

Kennie Chee: Well we concerned of the safety. Then we're doing together with the police... basically this Chinatown is much safer than any Chinatown in North America.

Zhongping Chen: Yeah, it's much cleaner. So in your impression, what kind of work the government should do for our Chinatown? Make it better.

Paul Lum: They should at least don't let these people... build something around in Chinatown. They always build something in Chinatown. So they attract those people come up to the shop, right? There is a building down there. That belongs to the homeless people. You know that it's still there?

Kennie Chee: No.

Paul Lum: Not there anymore?

Kennie Chee: Not anymore.

Zhongping Chen: They move out...

Paul Lum: They move out?

Kennie Chee: They move out. But now the government they do listen to us, to the Chinese community. Anything we don't like, they do the... give us some satisfied. Usually they don't listen to us but now they have to listen to us.

Zhongping Chen: So from when? From Alan Lowe became mayor?

Paul Lum: Ever since Alan Lowe...

Kennie Chee: Even he's not a mayor right now, he is still a good friend of us.

Zhongping Chen: So yeah, a final question. You know I came from university. Do you think what kind of work the university can do for the Chinese community? Can help the Chinese community, even like your association?

Paul Lum: I think you have to help the... help the people down here. Like restaurant, shop, right? That's the most important. Come down to the Chinese tradition, buy something or go to restaurant. I think that's the most important part, keep the Chinatown busier, correct?

Zhongping Chen: One major purpose for our project is let people understand, you know, Chinatown. Like this association, if I do not come I don't know this... I was confused why Zhongshan people have two associations. After I came I knew why...

Paul Lum: We are basically more private. The Hook Sin Tong is open to every Zhongshan people but we choose our members.

Zhongping Chen: So basically our project tries to let people, you know, understand Chinatown, and also the Chinese contribution to Chinatown. For example,

if you did not mention that, I did not realize all the buildings actually built with the local Chinese money. I originally assumed all the money came from the government. That was not true.

Paul Lum: In the old day there's no such a thing. Even the senior club, they don't get support from the government.

Zhongping Chen: Even today ... does the government support that too?

Paul Lum: No, that's why we support them.

Zhongping Chen: The government should...

Paul Lum: That's why we support them, we mentioned that here.

Kennie Chee: The CCBA pays their rent. They have to pay rent for the Chinese Canadian Friendship Association...

Zhongping Chen: Oh, that association does not pay the rent itself?

Kennie Chee: No.

Paul Lum: They don't have money.

Zhongping Chen: Yeah.

Kennie Chee: CCBA pays for their rent.

Zhongping Chen: All the rent is paid by CCBA?

Paul Lum: CCBA, yeah.

Zhongping Chen: Also that includes Kaiping Association...

Paul Lum: Yes, yes, they are also like that.

Zhongping Chen: Wong's Benevolent Association.

Paul Lum: Yes. They just hold meetings... different days. Because they don't have their own property, that's why they rent it over there.

Philip Lee: That's why we support them. A very little amount from the government grant.

Paul Lum: We also support the children to study over in...

Kennie Chee: The Chinese Public School.

Zhongping Chen: For the children of your members?

Paul Lum: Yes. Not our member, it's everybody.

Zhongping Chen: Oh really? Just give the money to the school?

Paul Lum: Just give to the school for...

Philip Lee: Scholarship.

Zhongping Chen: How come...

Paul Lum: Just for Shon Yee's scholarship.

Zhongping Chen: How much money you give...?

Paul Lum: Well, \$500 a year.

Philip Lee: Every year.

Paul Lum: We just want to encourage the young kids to study Chinese. That's why every year, every five years we sponsor lion dance, collect the money around \$2000. We donate it to the school, as scholarship.