



加拿大台灣人權協會
Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada
Ka-ná-tâi Tâi-oân Jîn-koân Hiap-hoē

May 11, 2012

TO:

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health
The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs

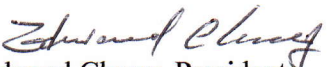
We are writing you to urge Canada to publicly support Taiwan's expanded participation in the World Health Organization. The World Health Assembly will meet in Geneva May 21-26. We ask Canada to take a stand in those meetings that the WHO does not have the right to unilaterally impose the name "Taiwan Province of China" on Taiwan.


In 2003 and 2005 the Canadian House of Commons and Senate passed resolutions supporting Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly as an observer. Taiwan was granted this status at the WHA in 2009, under the name "Chinese Taipei".

However, on September 14, 2010 the WHO Director General's Office issued a secret memorandum changing this name. "Procedures concerning an arrangement to facilitate implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) with respect to the Taiwan Province of China" required that all WHO documents use "Taiwan Province of China", and that information referring to Taiwan "must be listed or shown as falling under China". The government of Taiwan has protested this unilateral change of name. On May 17, 2011 the United States Secretary of Health stated that "no organization of the UN has the right to unilaterally determine the position of Taiwan".

We know that all Canadian political parties agree that the people of Taiwan should not be excluded from the international community because of claims made by the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is an active and valuable global citizen. The Tzu-chi Buddhist Compassion Relief Association is the world's largest charitable NGO. It was the first on the ground in Sumatra after the Indian Ocean Tsunami. After the Japanese earthquake and tsunami in 2011, Taiwan became the largest donor to Japan for relief and reconstruction.

As Taiwanese Canadians we urge Canada to actively and openly support Taiwan's increased participation in the WHO under a name acceptable to the people of Taiwan. Furthermore, while we are fully aware of the diplomatic issues involved, we hope that Canada will support Taiwan's admission to the WHA as a permanent observer under the name Taiwan.


Edward Chung, President
Taiwanese Canadian Association


Michael Stainton, President
Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada

As of May 11 the following organizations have added their support to this appeal:

China Rights Network, Federation for a Democratic China, Formosan Association for Public Affairs Canada, North American Taiwanese Women's Association, Taiwanese Hakka Association of Toronto

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