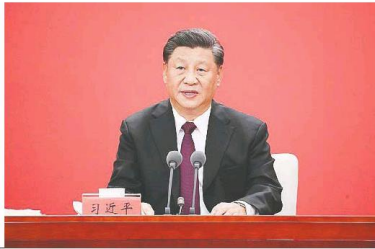


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'A SCANDAL TO ME'



The placement of emergency shelter clients in residential apartments run by a Vanier hotel owner has Coun. Mathieu Fleury at odds with city staff over concerns about the quality of the units, tenants being left vulnerable, and the high cost to taxpayers. **JEAN LEVAC**

Spooked by virus, Watson, Etches nix trick-or-treat

Mayor says there won't be candy cops; top doctor says be like Easter

JON WILLING

Dr. Vera Etches couldn't be more clear Wednesday: there should be no trick-or-treating this Halloween in Ottawa.

Etches, the city's medical officer of health, told city council that she doesn't recommend kids go door-to-door on Oct. 31 since Ottawa has the highest rate of people testing positive for COVID-19 in Ontario. The city, she emphasized, is in the red zone when it comes to the spread of the novel coronavirus and the city can't let down its guard on physical distancing.

What to do about Halloween emerged as a popular topic for council members as Etches fielded questions for a large portion of

a council meeting. Etches said Halloween should only be celebrated within households and she suggested it should be more like Easter, perhaps involving costumed hunts for candy at home.

"Halloween needs to be different this year," Etches said.

Don't expect the city to send out the candy cops, though.

Mayor Jim Watson said bylaw officers and police won't be cracking down on trick-or-treaters. It's just a strong recommendation from city officials.

Watson said he won't be handing out candy at his house.

Councillors were also trying to reconcile the messages from Etches with those from federal

chief public health officer Theresa Tam, who suggested this week that trick-or-treating could be done safely.

But, as Etches pointed out, Tam also said people should listen to their local medical officers of health for advice.

Etches spent nearly three hours answering questions from councillors about the COVID-19 situation in Ottawa, with politicians probing her thoughts on Halloween, sources of virus transmission and the recent economic restrictions forced on the city by the provincial government.

Council pressed Etches on the province's decision to ban indoor dining and the operation of fitness centres for at least 28 days, starting last Saturday. It was a decision she said she supported in light of the increase in virus transmissions.

The province implemented the same restrictions in Toronto and Peel Region.

Etches said the health unit has found cases related to local restaurant settings.

In a news conference after the council meeting, Etches said eight per cent of people have reported being in those places in the time when they could have picked up the virus or were infectious to others, and there are examples of the virus being passed on.

SEE HALLOWEEN ON **A3**

Emergency shelter deal with hotelier under fresh scrutiny

TAYLOR BLEWETT

The placement of new emergency shelter clients at two properties run by a Vanier hotel owner — whose arrangement with the city previously faced scrutiny by the office of the auditor general — has been temporarily suspended while the city investigates concerns about poor living conditions.

The city's one-of-a-kind arrangement with the Ottawa Inn and its owner, Ahmed Syed has been in place for five years.

The deal, which costs the city more than \$3,000 per unit per month to house homeless families, has persisted despite opposition by the local city councillor and in the surrounding neighbourhood, where concerns exist about the welfare of these families and how public dollars are being spent.

SEE OTTAWA INN ON **A4**

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pressreader

Police continuing to review 'dynamic entry,' chief says

SHAAMINI YOGARETNAM

Ottawa police Chief Peter Sloly said the force will continue to review how decisions are made to execute a "dynamic entry" in tactical raids. The comments come on the heels of the falling death of 23-year-old Anthony Aust who jumped from his bedroom window on Oct. 7 after police burst into his 12th-floor apartment, using that entry as part of a drug unit search warrant. Sloly's comments also come as part of a wide-ranging interview in advance of the chief's one-year anniversary as top cop.

"We'll continue to revisit the techniques involved in executing search warrants, particularly high-risk search warrants where there is a risk to public safety or officer safety," Sloly said.

Sloly said that in his time as Ottawa police chief he has watched the tactical unit and duty inspectors, senior officers who serve as "incident commanders," go through the "risk assessment" in deciding when to use the entry. It's his impression that the practice has reduced complaints against police officers, injuries to community members, to service members and his "resulted in better evidence and better supports to Crown prosecutions."

But the chief said such an entry remains "dynamic" and occurs in "high-risk situations," which means it does require ongoing review. "Because of those two factors alone, I think it's incumbent on every police service — it certainly will be for my police service during my tenure here — that we continue to review the most high-risk aspects of our service delivery. And that will be one that will have continuous review — not just because of the ruling that came down in the early spring and not just because of any particular incident but because it's really important for us to do regardless."

The Special Investigations Unit continues to probe Aust's falling death and has assigned three

subject officers in the probe. The watchdog investigates any incidents of death, serious injury or sexual assault involving police and civilians in Ontario. Sloly did not speak to the specifics of the Aust case. Police forces are prohibited from discussing cases being investigated by the SIU.

As reported by the Citizen, a team of tactical officers breached the door of the Aust family apartment on the 12th floor of 4200 Jasmine Cres. on the morning of Oct. 7. Video from a security camera in the apartment shows that once the doors were open, masked tactical officers announced their presence — "Police! Don't move!" — and tossed a flash grenade into the entryway. That video then shows at least eight officers, armed with rifles, entering the home.

Aust was asleep in his bedroom on a bunk bed at the time, according to his brother. He then jumped from the 12th-floor bedroom window with nothing to catch him. His family believes the stress of his police entry led him to jump.

The entry, in which police break down doors, sometimes using a battering ram, and use flash grenades as distraction devices, remains legal for police to use in Ontario.

In February, an Ottawa judge chastised what she called the service's overuse of the entry, saying it amounted to a "casual disregard" of people's constitutional rights. That ruling, however, didn't prohibit police from continuing to use the entry.

Following that ruling and the Citizen's reporting on the ruling, the police board asked the service how common a practice the entry was, what the decision-making process is to determine whether one is required and if the service would continue using the entry given the judge's comments.

Sloly said the service began a review then and will continue to do so either on an annual or "incident by incident" basis. shyamini.yogaretnam@ottawacitizen.com
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CELEBRATING

FIFTY YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND CHINA 1970-2020

庆祝加拿大与中华人民共和国建交50周年

OCTOBER 13TH, 2020 MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND CHINA. HERE ARE SOME OF THE GENERAL INQUIRY QUESTIONS WHO HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THIS ACHIEVEMENT.

The Immigrant Dreamer - Helen Ge

I am Fangwen Helen Ge. In 1993, I arrived in Ottawa with empty hands and one big dream to establish my own accounting firm like most new immigrants. Equipped with a master's degree and many years of teaching and accounting experience in China, I still needed to start learning everything almost from ground zero. I set up my goal and turned my dream into action in 1999 when I opened my accounting firm from my home basement office. I followed my heart and set up my motto: be passionate, be knowledgeable, be committed, be supportive and be pleasant. Over the past 20 years, my firm has grown to a well-known business with offices in Ottawa and Toronto. Our service has expanded from bookkeeping and basic accounting service to tax consulting and planning, full ranges of accounting, training services and much more.

While establishing my own business, I never forgot my social responsibilities to give back to the community and the new country that we call home. I initiated and coordinated with Ontario C/IA Ottawa chapter to set up the first volunteer tax clinic in Chinese community more than 20 years ago. Since then, my staff and I had been volunteering to file over thousands of tax returns for low income individuals, families, and seniors in various communities of both Ottawa and Toronto. We host numerous free taxation seminars that would benefit hundreds of people. I have also been volunteering to offer my knowledge and expertise for many local charities and nonprofit organizations for many years.

I always remember how difficult it was to find my first job after graduating from professional school; therefore, I put my best effort to help many new accounting graduates and new immigrants by hiring, providing training and supporting them to set their foot on a higher and larger career stage. Gratefully I was nominated for the Entrepreneurship Award by Fairchild IV in Toronto.

During this difficult time of the global Covid-19 pandemic, my heart calls me to stand up to help others with my professional expertise by closely monitoring federal and provincial government's policy announcements, timely preparing newsletters in both English and Chinese to explain all the government's emergency response measures and reaching out to those who need the most support at a timely manner. We also provide free tax return services to frontline workers and hosted virtual seminars both in English and Chinese. Like many community members, this is just my humble way to express my gratitude and give back to the community.

Stronger Together - Twinning Relationships

Since 1980, provinces and cities in Canada and China have formed strong ties through twinning and friendship agreements. One of the most recent partnerships is between Halifax and the City of Zhubai, located in China's Guangdong province. The two became sister cities following years of academic and economic connections. John Rogers, then-Interim President & CEO of Halifax Partnership, told The Chronicle Herald, "As we work towards the ambitious vision of Halifax's Economic Growth Plan to reach a population of 550,000 and GDP of \$30B, we remain focused on developing relationships internationally to increase investment, trade, and global connectivity. With China being one of the world's fastest-growing markets and Nova Scotia's second-largest trading partner, this is a strategic priority market for business, government and academic organizations."

Deliberations on the proposal to grow the relationship were conducted by the Standing Committee of the 9th Zhubai Municipal People's Congress on October 26, 2017. As Zhubai deepens ties with Atlantic Canada's largest city — its second sister city — Canada and 14th overall — their communication and cooperation in multiple fields will expand.

According to the Zhubai Daily, a key consideration for the budding relationship is cross-promotion of each city's economic development. Expectations for outcomes in this area were set by Zhubai's first international sister city relationship, which was formed with Surrey, British Columbia, in July 1987.

Halifax is a growing centre of commerce and business and is a major economic engine for both Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada more broadly. It was ranked by MoneySense as among the best places to live in Canada in 2012. Halifax also sits atop the list of "large cities by quality of life," and in the past, ID Magazine has ranked it as one of North and South America's most business-friendly cities.

Zhubai and Halifax are thought to have economic, trade, education, and other similarities, and have different but complementary industry advantages. Because of this, the cities are believed to enjoy sound prospects for cooperation, says the Daily. The cities first established contact in 2016 and have since seen frequent high-level exchanges resulting in enhanced collaboration on education and business. They signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Friendly Exchanges & Cooperation in August 2016. The signing of this latter city partnership agreement between Halifax and Zhubai in 2019 has brought Canada's Atlantic and South China's Guangdong-HongKong-Macao Greater Bay Area closer.

The New Generation - Karen Yao

Karen Yao, a caring, driven, and passionate new graduate in law was born and raised in the nation's capital, Ottawa. Having grown up in an immigrant family from Shanghai, China, Karen was often surrounded by at least two cultures and two languages or more. As a first-generation Canadian-born Chinese, she always wanted to help bridge cross-cultural understanding and appreciation between the communities. With a passion for public speaking and volunteering, Karen has become a known local emcee in the Ottawa community. She thoroughly enjoys introducing various aspects of Chinese culture through her trilingual hosting at many events and festivals. She has emceed for events in Ottawa since 2013, including for the annual Chinese New Year on Parliament Hill, Gala, China-Canada Year of Tourism Celebration, One Young World Summit, Music and Beyond festival, 2020 Chinese Heritage Festival, and Global Fight Against COVID-19 five broadest shows, and more.

Volunteering has always held a special place in her heart even during her busy studies. Karen is always happy to lend a hand, whether it's helping new English speakers improve their spoken English or to help struggling international students, or playing piano to residents at long-term care centres.

Karen decided to launch her studies at the University of Ottawa in the field of Economics and Political Science. In-between classes, she had the privilege of first working as a House of Commons page in the Parliament, and later as a Temporary Tour Guide. She also worked in several federal government departments through co-op, where she built upon her interest of working in public policy. She later had the opportunity to study abroad in Paris at Sciences Po. Her passion for further studying social issues and quantitative methods led her to defer her admission to law school for a year, during which she completed her master's in Economics.

Having always dreamt of becoming her family's first lawyer, Karen recently obtained her Bachelor of Civil Law and Juris Doctor from McGill's Faculty of Law through its accelerated track. During her first year of law school, she volunteered for McGill's Pro Bono Student Chapter at the Montreal courthouse studying access to justice experiences of family law litigants. She later served as President for McGill's Arbitration Student Society. Karen is currently completing her articles at the Ontario Securities Commission, where she hopes to further apply her knowledge to help mitigate crime, minimize through pro bono work. Despite these trying times, Karen is optimistic for what the future holds. Things can only get better from here.

World Class

As Dr. Cao solidified his academic expertise on numerous empirical research in Canada and China, he found himself interested in policy-making related to his research topics. "The China Challenge", a book co-authored by Tom Bruneau and published in 2011, was lauded by his peers for creating a new model to discuss Canada's relations with China. This book was accompanied by the works of many influential authors, politicians and academics including Senator Yuen Pan Woo, and former Canadian Ambassador in Beijing Fred Bilde. It also included writings of well-known Canadian sinologists including B. Michael Frolic and Charles Burton. This book was selected among the 20 most important books on foreign policy by Embassy Newswatch. Frolic and Burton, Cao's second book co-edited with Professor Jeffrey Palfest on the series "Facing China as a New Global Superpower", discusses how Canada should manage its relationship to Reform-Era China. The book also gained in popularity among academics.

Since 2015, as the founding co-president, Dr. Cao has led a joint initiative with UN-Habitat, The International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU). As an international think-tank, ICCASU is for exchange and cooperation on sustainable urban development issues, focusing on Canada, China, and Africa. Its biennial conferences and trainings, which rotate among the three regions, bring together scholars, practitioners, representatives of civil society, politicians and policymakers to share latest research and best practices on sustainable urbanization in the 21st Century. To date, ICCASU has mounted three conferences, two workshops and multiple training sessions. In 2019, ICCASU III took place in Chengdu, China in partnership with the China National Development and Reform Commission. ICCASU IV is planned to be in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Dr. Huhua Cao is currently a professor in Urban Studies and International Development at the University of Ottawa, where he is also an adjunct professor at the University and practicing as an architect in his native Shanghai. Dr. Cao came to Canada to pursue graduate studies at Laval University. Dr. Cao taught at the University of Ottawa from 1993 to 2003. He was tenured and promoted to Full Professor. Throughout the next 25 years of his university career, Dr. Cao has been developing his special interests, including his research comment and directed various national and international transdisciplinary research and training. He has written numerous journal articles, book chapters, and reports while collaborating with academics, professionals, and politicians worldwide.

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