

January 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Kinsella,

Re: Offensive remarks regarding “Cat Meat”

I am writing you today on behalf of the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter, an organization of Chinese Canadians in the City of Toronto that promotes equity, social justice, inclusive civic participation, and respect for diversity. It was recently brought to our attention that you made some offensive remarks on your blog regarding a Chinese restaurant in Ottawa that served “cat meat”.

Specifically you stated in your blog “what better way to kick things off than with some BBQ cat and rice at the Yang Sheng”. This was accompanied a video comment where you make the following remark, “...over there is the Yang Sheng Restaurant where me and my buddy’s used to go when we were all at Carlton... you’d have a bowl of soup, rice and for about 2 bucks and they’d put some pork in it. Now the pork closely resembled cat, but we didn’t mind that so much because we didn’t have much to eat.”

It is extremely disappointing that someone in your position, as a senior political strategist for the Liberal Party, would say something so clearly untrue about Chinese restaurants and so clearly offensive to the Chinese community.

We are please to see that the offending remarks have been removed from your blog, and the video and associated comments removed from Youtube. However, we are requesting that you issue a public apology to the Chinese community for your remarks and refrain from make such insensitive, ignorant and offensive remarks in the future.

We look forward to your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,



Karen Sun
Executive Director

Cc: Michael Ignatieff, Liberal Party Leader
Chinese Canadian Liberal Association
Chinese Canadian Conservative Association
Chinese Action Committee of the NDP