

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**TORONTO RAILWAY MUSEUM (TRM) TO SCREEN  
“THE TIES THAT BIND” IN HONOUR OF ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

*On May 13, In Partnership with Foundation to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada (FCCRWC), TRM Brings Light to the Seldom Told Story of Building Canada’s Transcontinental Railway Between 1881 and 1885*

**MAY 10, 2021 (TORONTO, ON):** [Toronto Railway Museum](#) (TRM), a non-profit organization, located in the iconic Roundhouse Park across from the CN Tower, and the Foundation to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada (FCCRWC), will proudly screen the documentary, “[The Ties That Bind](#),” (preview [here](#)) on **Thursday, May 13 at 7 p.m.** This will mark the **second installment** of the TRM’s 2021 Virtual Lecture Series as it works to collectively reclaim history for Chinese Canadians and having their contributions to the building of Canada.

Despite archival evidence and research of the men who came from China to build the transcontinental railroad in the 1880s, the story and truth is seldom told. “We are proud to have opportunity to screen this important documentary dedicated to the Chinese Railroad Workers in honour of [Asian Heritage Month](#),” says Kelly Burwash, manager and curator, TRM. The film originally launched in 2011, examines the struggle of the Chinese Canadian community to establish an identity and roots in Canada. “It’s our mission to share the truth of our past so we can make the future better, and we look forward to have the Foundation directors, Mr. Doug Hum and Mr. Binh Chow, present this film and participate in a Q&A with our audience.”

“May is a very important month for our community, and particularly as of late with the unfortunate Asian Hate we are seeing locally and across the globe,” says Landy Anderson, chair, FCCRWC. “We ask the community to learn our past and the Chinese community’s contribution which has helped to create Canada’s beautiful diverse society we proudly call home today. We thank the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, Citizenship for Immigration Canada and the TRM for their generous support to make our country’s history known and understood.”

Proceeds from ticket sales will be shared and go towards future programming for both organizations, specifically to support the collection, preservation, restoration of Canadian rail artifacts and important historical interpretation at the TRM.

The TRM looks forward to celebrating Canadian history throughout its lecture series offering an affordable family-friendly event made available for everyone to safely enjoy in the comfort of their own home.



Tickets are now on sale: **\$13.13 for a Zoom Link** and can be purchased via the TRM website [here](#).

Learn more about the Chinese Railway Workers Memorial erected in 1989 as a sculpture designed by [Eldon Garnet](#) located in Toronto across Blue Jays Way from the Rogers Centre.

Interviews with directors at FCCRWC and TRM spokespersons, as well as high-resolution imagery and vintage video content are available upon request.

Subscribe to the TRM monthly newsletter [here](#) and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) to stay-up-to-date on the schedule and next themed-topics in the series.

**#TRMxTiesThatBind**

**#AsianHeritageMonth**

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## **ABOUT THE TIES THAT BIND**

Between 1881 and 1885, over 17,000 Chinese men came to Canada to work as labourers on the construction of the western section of the transcontinental railroad. Today, many Chinese Canadians are direct descendants of these men. The Ties That Bind: Building the CPR, Building a Place in Canada tells their story, and how their forebears contributed to nation building. The famous “Last Spike” photograph tells only one part of the story. The people looking at the camera are white. Not one Chinese man is present. In this final moment, the story of the Chinese railway worker – their labour, sacrifice, and struggles – is omitted from the historical record. The Ties That Bind examines the struggle of the Chinese Canadian community to establish an identity and roots in Canada. Through archival evidence and research about the men who came from China to build the transcontinental railway in the 1880s, and the use of oral testimony of their descendants, The Ties That Bind preserves a seldom told part of Canada’s history. The original film launched in 2011 and it is a legacy project from the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) funding.



## **ABOUT THE FOUNDATION TO COMMEMORATE THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS IN CANADA (FCCRWC)**

FCCRWC is a registered charitable organization. The goals of the foundation include promoting the understanding and awareness of the contribution to Canada by the Chinese Railroad Workers who participated in the construction of the first transcontinental railway (the CPR) that united Canada geographically and politically; promoting the awareness of the government's legislation of unjust Immigration Acts against the Chinese pioneers and their families; establishing scholarships; and sponsoring other Canadian charitable organizations to promote Chinese Canadian History.

## **ABOUT TORONTO RAILWAY MUSEUM (TRM)**

Located in [Roundhouse Park](#), in the heart of downtown Toronto that shares stories of Toronto's railway history. The museum's exhibits include the original, fully restored and operational 120-foot-long locomotive turntable and a carefully chosen collection of full-size railway equipment. The museum also operates a miniature railway and other outdoor exhibits illustrating Toronto's railway heritage. Exhibits include the original 60,000-gallon water tower, the 650-ton concrete locomotive coaling tower and a collection of historic buildings, including Don Station and Cabin D.

## **ABOUT TORONTO RAILWAY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (TRHA)**

Established in 2001 to work with the City of Toronto to establish a railway museum at the John Street Roundhouse. The TRHA is incorporated and is a Federally registered charity. Its primary purpose is to promote the development of the TRM.

