



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vancouver Asian Heritage Month explorASIAN Festival 2008

As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen it is my distinct pleasure to extend greetings to all British Columbians celebrating Asian Heritage Month at Vancouver's 12th annual explorASIAN Festival. I would also like to express my gratitude to Senator Vivienne Poy for her role in making it possible for all Canadians to officially recognize and celebrate the countless contributions Asian Canadians have made to our communities.

Immigrating to a new country is a difficult journey with many barriers to overcome. Today we value the beauty and wisdom of the many Asian cultures that are now part of our Canadian heritage. We recognize the early Asian immigrants as pioneers who helped build our country, shaping our communities and enriching our lives.

As you celebrate the many cultures and many languages of this year's explorASIAN Festival, I ask that you take time to reflect on the historic significance of this event. We are fortunate to live in a country that welcomes cultural diversity. It is this diversity that weaves the rich tapestry of Canada's mosaic, teaching us inclusivity and strengthening the future of our country.

On behalf of the people of British Columbia, I wish you a most memorable and successful celebration of Pan Asian Canadian arts and cultures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Point".

The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia