



May 2009

### *A Message from the Premier*

As Premier of the province of British Columbia, I am pleased to join with the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society in welcoming you to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual explorASIAN Festival in Metro Vancouver.

British Columbia's multicultural heritage contributes significantly to the greatness of our province. This diversity fosters an environment of acceptance and understanding, and is a source of pride and strength for British Columbians. Cultural celebrations, such as the explorASIAN Festival, play an important role in showcasing the richness of our cultural mosaic.

I would like to recognize the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society for the support they provide to the talented emerging and established Asian artists in our province. I understand that since 1996, the Society's explorASIAN Festival has organized top quality performances and exhibitions of Pan-Asian arts and culture for Asian Heritage Month.

At this time, the spirit of 2010 is growing in our province as we prepare to host the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Soon viewers, visitors and athletes from around the world will recognize the City of Vancouver and the province of British Columbia as a multicultural epicentre, rich in cultural diversity with so much to offer.

I hope everyone enjoys this year's Asian Heritage Month.

Sincerely,

Gordon Campbell  
Premier