

CEC Legacy Proclamation

Jennifer Tong

March 2004

WHEREAS, Dr. Jennifer A. Tong notably served CEC in many roles during her 42 years of membership, including the British Columbia Provincial Federation President; British Columbia Governor to the CEC Board of Governors; chair of the British Columbia Yes I Can! Committee, ensuring that exceptional children residing in British Columbia were locally recognized and had opportunities to be acknowledged at the annual national CEC Yes I Can! Awards Program; and as the advisor to the British Columbia Federation/Unit until her passing;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tong also served as the Canadian CEC President, coordinating with CEC the closing of the Canadian CEC Office and leading the organization through some very challenging financial and human resources situations; held the position of the Canadian Member of the CEC Board of Directors, serving two terms; and chaired the CEC US and Canada Workgroup, resulting in the creation of the Canadian US Committee;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tong was the Local Arrangements Chair for the 2000 World Congress and the 2003 and 2009 CEC Convention Headquarters Liaise Chair;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tong's professional field positions included teacher, sessional instructor, special education consultant, and program administrator;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tong was the first special education consultant in the Vancouver Catholic Independent Schools, developing all initial special education policies, the special education delivery system, professional development training, and inclusive practices;


WHEREAS, as the Director of Learning Support for the British Columbia Catholic Schools, Dr. Tong expanded school-based teams, service delivery model options, and professional development opportunities to all British Columbia Catholic Schools, created the first teacher-paraeducator teams in British Columbia, and introduced the Crisis Prevention Intervention Training Program to improve support for students struggling with dysregulation;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tong was a lead member of auditing teams for the British Columbia Independent Schools and the British Columbia Ministry of Education, ensuring equity of educational opportunities and appropriate instruction for all students regardless of school attendance;

WHEREAS, Dr. Tong’s advocacy efforts resulted in equitable funding for students with disabilities in all British Columbia independent schools; and

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Council for Exceptional Children conveys deep appreciation and admiration for Dr. Jennifer Tong’s leadership in pioneering special education programming, professional development, evaluation practices, and integrated support systems in the British Columbia Catholic Schools, creating equitable student funding through advocacy, and her significant leadership and noteworthy contributions to Canadian CEC and The Council for Exceptional Children through her board positions and committee chairmanships.



Kareem Thompson
President



Chad Rummel
Executive Director