



25

ANS POUR LA DIVERSITÉ ET L'ÉGALITÉ
YEARS FOR LIBERTY AND JUSTICE

Thursday, March 12, 2009

The Hon. Vivienne Poy
Senator (Liberal-Ontario)
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa K1A 0A4

PRÉSIDENT HONORAIRE /
HONORARY CHAIR
Antonin Dumas-Pierre

DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL /
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Fo Niemi

RÉCIPIENDAIRE /
RECIPIENT

Prix Anne-Greenup 2008
pour la lutte contre
le racisme
Gouvernement du Québec

Award of Distinction 2008
Canadian Race Relations
Foundation

Certificat de
reconnaissance 2006
Programme du Travail
Ressources humaines et
Développement social Canada

Martin Luther King Jr.
Legacy Award 2003
Martin Luther King Jr.
Legacy Committee of Montreal

MEMBRE /
MEMBER

Canadians for Diversity in
Radio-Television and
Telecommunications

Conseil de presse
du Québec

Court Challenges Program/
Programme de
contestation judiciaire

Table de concertation des
organismes de service aux
personnes réfugiées et
immigrantes

**RE: Invitation to An Event with US Representative Mike Honda, in Montreal,
May 16, Asian Heritage Month 2009**

Dear Senator:

It is our privilege to invite you as Guest of Honor to a major event in Montreal, which we will be hosting next May to mark Asian Heritage Month (AHM).

Briefly, CRARR is a bilingual non-profit, independent civil rights organization that is based in Montreal, with members and associates across Canada. CRARR was founded in 1983 to promote racial harmony and equality in Canada. With funding from both the government and the private sector, CRARR undertakes research, public education, advocacy and legal action to achieve its objectives.

To mark the last AHN of the decade, we have extended an invitation to the Hon. Mike Honda, US Representative (D-Ca) and Chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) to visit Montreal and discuss civil rights issues, including the celebration of Asian Heritage Month in both countries. With a new Democratic Congress and administration in Washington, we hope that the Hon. Honda's visit will provide us with a unique opportunity for greater exchange and cooperation on civil rights issues.

The Hon. Honda's office has confirmed the date of Saturday, May 16th. Accordingly, we are discussing arrangements for his visit and planning events for the day, which include (pending final confirmation):

1. a luncheon with Quebec government representatives and representatives of select businesses, unions and other institutions (est. 50 guests);
2. a visit to the Japanese Canadian Cultural Center of Montreal, and
3. a dinner with representatives from all levels of government, the diplomatic community and civil society organizations at large (est. 250 guests). The Hon. Honda will be invited to deliver a speech at this event.

As Canada's only Asian Senator and the sponsor of the Senate motion to recognize Asian Heritage Month, we would very much like to host you in Montreal during

the Hon. Honda's visit and to have you join us at any of the above mentioned events. As Guest of Honor, we specifically invite you to join the Hon. Honda at the head table at the luncheon and at the dinner and to deliver a word of welcome to our guest. The Hon. Bev Oda has also been invited to speak on behalf of the Government of Canada.

We will also request from you a word of welcome accompanied by a b & w photo, to be published in the souvenir album.

We will extend the same invitation to the Hon. Michael Ignatieff, Ms. Raymonde Folco, MP, a long-standing supporter of CRARR, Dr. Ruby Dhalla, MP, as well as other MPs in the Montreal area.

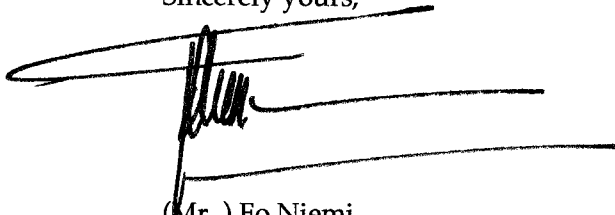
Given our limited budget, we unfortunately cannot defray your travel costs and hotel accommodations, but we will waive the fees related to both events. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to support the event, please make the contribution to IRERR (Institute for Research and Education on Race Relations), a charitable organization associated with CRARR.

As we mentioned earlier, we are waiting for final approval from Congress for the travel plan and other logistical and protocol plans related to both activities. Pending confirmation of these details, we invite you to inform us of your decision.

Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact us. You can also visit our website at www.crarr.org to obtain more information on our work.

We thank you for your kind attention and we look forward to welcoming you to these special activities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fo Niemi', is written over three horizontal lines. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

(Mr.) Fo Niemi
Executive Director
FN/tf

Encls.