

## An Excerpt of Yin, Fuge

My name is Yin, Fuge, from Yangliuqing, Tianjin. I was born in 1968, the year of Goat, at goat's tail. My birthday is the 28th day of the last month in Lunar Calendar.

I landed on PEI on Oct 5th, 2010. When I came here, it was the season of fall. Very beautiful scenery! The maple leaves...the evening was pretty peaceful, no car noise,...Our friend took us for a quick glance around the island the very next morning. Wow! Too many things for the eyes to take in, the maple leaves turning red, and more colors as yellow, green, blue, ...Stunning!

Why did I always say I love PEI? Probably because I met such a nice guy here. He is a Beijinger, named Yang, Jun. I didn't know him formerly. We got known each other through the internet. He voluntarily welcome us with no charge at all, picking up us at the airport, arranging us for a temporary accommodation before our arrival, and even got some daily necessities for us. He never asked for a penny. Just because of him, I got a quite positive first impression on PEI. For the same reason, I started offering receptions to other new comers voluntarily and free of charge, giving them some help I can possibly manage to. Like a love relay team. I have welcomed 40-50 families so far. They all asked me, after my reception, Lao Yin, how should we thank you? I told them that there's no need to thank me, just pass on the caring support to others.

I was elected to be the Chairman of Chinese Association of PEI in 2014.

Talking about my routine job (laughing), I usually tell people here that I am just like a Dama working for a Neighbourhood Committee in China. Looking after all the issues in the community and my people are willing to seek me for help as well. They, for instance, came to me when in need of an intermediary in divorcing, or a witness in marriage ceremony, the latter delights me (laughing).

Another thing I do is to communicate with the government. You guys may have already found the warning signs written in Chinese at the capelin- hotspots. It was my job on behalf of our Chinese community (taking charge of this matter). Every spring, in May, we see the capelin rolling to PEI. Everyone can catch 60 in maximum. However some new comers came to PEI with no such knowledge at all. They don't know (the regulation). So, I proposed of erecting some Chinese warning signs on site in my meeting with RCMP for the sake of our convenience. Now, it's out there.

Besides bridging with government, we also organize the Spring festival gala. The first event was in 2011, a couple months after I came here. Yang Jun organized it in a church, having about 70-80 people involved. Our gala took place at Jack Family Center in 2012, just across the street (pointing at the place as talking). It had 260 people participated this time. Spring gala 2012 is the first one at large-scale. We moved to Delta hotel in 2013 and our participants are never under 1200 since then.

The performers would be more than 120. The grand one was in 2018. It was the first time we held the gala in confederation Centre of the Arts, the largest theatre in the Eastern Canada with the seating capacity of 1029. It's a world class venue. Normally a budget for such an event would cost about \$50,000 to \$55,000. All of our funds are from donation and the remaining part, if any after the event finished, will go to the hospitals or schools for charity purpose. Starting from 2016, our spring Gala have attracted some key figures to join in such as PEI's Governor General, Premier of PEI, and the ministers of PEI, the three mayors of PEI, the provincial councillors, and the congressmen whoever at PEI at that time. Provincial government of PEI named our spring festival gala as Chinese Spring Gala in 2018 and the first Saturday in March was officially chosen to be the time to celebrate every year. That's to say PEI has another official festival, a Chinese festival. We call it Chinese New Year Gala.

(Translated by Chen chen)