

# Dragon boat races in Toronto promote athleticism and cultural heritage (with photos)

Over 100 dragon boat crews from across North America and overseas converged at Centre Island, Toronto, Canada, on June 14 and 15 (Toronto time) to compete for glory at the 37th Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival, supported by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Toronto) (Toronto ET0).

Organised by the Toronto Chinese Business Association, the mega event attracted thousands of people to celebrate the Chinese tradition that blends athleticism and cultural heritage.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Festival, the Acting Director of the Toronto ET0, Mr Gavin Yeung, remarked that the Toronto ET0 is pleased to continue supporting the Festival. "Hong Kong brought this water sport to Canada almost four decades ago," he said. "The dragon boat race signifies the strong and enduring ties between Hong Kong and Canada."

Mr Yeung shared that Hong Kong, as the events capital of Asia, stands as a globally connected city that hosts world-class events, including mega sports competitions, international conferences and cultural exhibitions, attracting tourists around the world.

"A notable highlight is the newly opened Kai Tak Sports Park," he said. "Spanning over 28 hectares, this multipurpose venue is the largest sports, entertainment and mega event complex in Hong Kong." Highlighting the concept of "tourism is everywhere" in Hong Kong, he encouraged Canadians to visit Hong Kong and discover the many exciting developments in Asia's world city.

The Toronto ET0 also set up a Hong Kong pavilion with a mini-exhibition to showcase the history of dragon boating in Hong Kong. Cheering for their favourite teams while exploring the cultural favours, visitors enjoyed an unforgettable weekend.

Besides Toronto, the Toronto ET0 also celebrated dragon boat festivals in different cities across Canada. The festivals in Vancouver and Ottawa will be held from June 20 to 22 (Vancouver and Ottawa time) respectively.

