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# news release

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## Glenbow Museum

October 1, 2008

### **In the eye of the dragon: Will China drive Alberta's economy? -FREE public talk October 2-**

The U.S. financial crisis, the melamine and milk formula food scare – a U of C social anthropologist says the implications of these and other events on China's economy may directly impact Albertans.

"China has financial holdings in U.S. dollars and bonds worth multiple billions so its economy could be affected by the financial meltdown in the U.S. It is also the third largest source of food imports to Canada," says Josephine Smart, professor of anthropology. "As the single largest population within a single boundary, everyone has a great interest in the consumption power and economy of China."

On October 2 at 5 pm, join Josephine Smart, China Expert; ATB's Chief Economist Todd Hirsch; Paul Evans from the Asia Pacific Foundation, Joyce Woo, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager, HSBC; and Alan Chan of AC Capital Inc. for a FREE public discussion on China's growing economic power and what it means for Alberta and its economy.

Organized by Glenbow Museum and the Alberta Global Forum at the University of Calgary, this discussion will seek answers to many questions. As China seeks out the sources of energy and raw materials needed to fuel its manufacturing sector and the looming consumer market how does Alberta fit into this picture? While increased trade with China brings great opportunities, it also brings great challenges. As Alberta's trade with China has grown significantly in a few short years, how will both cultures negotiate this relationship? What are the implications of China's growing influence in the province? How will Albertans negotiate the cultural and political differences at play? When should social and political issues affect economic decisions? How will we greet the dragon? Join us for this lively FREE public discussion.

#### **Who:**

Alan Chan, AC Capital Inc.  
Paul Evans, Asia Pacific Foundation  
Todd Hirsch, ATB's Chief Economist  
Josephine Smart, China Expert, University of Calgary  
Joyce Woo, Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager, HSBC

**What:** A free public discussion

**When:** Thursday, October 2, 2008 – 5 – 7 pm

**Where:** Glenbow Museum 130 -9th Avenue SE

#### **Media contact:**

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## **Panelist Bios:**

### **Alan Chan**

Mr. Chan is the President, C.E.O. and principal shareholder of AC Capital Inc. He is a professional engineer and an entrepreneur. He graduated from university with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1973. Since graduation, he worked in a number of industries and held various senior technical and management positions. In early 1990s, he founded the company, China Pacific Industrial Corp. to pursue joint venture projects in China, and subsequently he established two joint ventures in China. Since the mid 1990s, Mr. Chan has been involved in the financial field and has assisted in the establishment of a number of public companies as well as in completing a number of financings, mergers and acquisitions. In addition, Mr. Chan has held directorship in a number of public companies, including currently with Grand Power Logistics Group Inc., Ginger Beef Corporation and Sinomar Capital Corp.

### **Paul Evans**

Mr. Evans is professor in the College of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of British Columbia, cross appointed to Liu Institute for Global Issues and the Institute for Asian Research. Effective 1 September 2008 he returned to UBC after a three year secondment to the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada where he served as Co-CEO and Chairman of the Executive Committee. He is maintaining a connection to the Foundation as Senior Advisor to the Board.

After finishing his Ph.D. at Dalhousie University he was appointed at York University (1981-96), Harvard University (1997-99) and directed the University of Toronto-York University Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies (1991-96). He was the founding co-chair of the Canadian Member Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in Asia Pacific (CSCAP) and the founding director of the Canadian Consortium on Human Security. His principal books include *John Fairbank and the American Understanding of Modern China* (1988); *Reluctant Adversaries: Canada and the People's Republic of China, 1949-1970* (1991); and *The Asia-Pacific Security Lexicon* (2002 and 2007). His recent writings have focused on Canada's relations with global China, Asian views on human security and the responsibility to protect, and Asian institution building.

### **Todd Hirsch**

Mr. Hirsch is a Senior Economist with ATB Financial. He received his BA Honors in Economics from the University of Alberta, and an MA in Economics from the University of Calgary. Since completing his education in 2003, he has held a series of economist positions at a variety of for-profit and public sector organizations, including the Canada West Foundation, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Bank of Canada. Todd joined ATB Financial in May 2007 as Senior Economist where he provides economic information and intelligence to the various lines of business at ATB. He also tracks current developments in Alberta's and North America's economy and delivers presentations to both internal and external audiences.

Todd appears regularly as an economic commentator on CBC radio, the Globe and Mail, and various local and national news programs. He also teaches two economics courses at the University of Calgary, acts as a mentor for the Economics Society of Calgary's student mentorship program, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Calgary Arts Academy.

### **Dr. Josephine Smart**

Dr. Smart is a social anthropologist at the University of Calgary who studies the political economy of food and zoonotic diseases. One of Dr. Smart's researches has centered on the consumption of exotic animals for medicinal purposes in the Hong Kong-South China region. In 2004, Dr. Smart was invited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta to provide her research expertise to a gathering of international scientists. The World Health Organization and other agencies have also solicited her advice.

Dr. Smart's teaching and research interests also include informal economies, foreign investment in China, Hong Kong Chinese international migration, mobility of capital and labor, and the anthropology of food. She is the author of *The Political Economy of Street Hawkers in Hong Kong*, and co-editor of *Plural Globalities in Multiple Localities-New World Borders*.