

## Vietnamese New-Year Reception in Ottawa, February 13, 2011

The Vietnamese Canadian Federation (VCF) and the Vietnamese Canadian Centre (VCC) have held a reception on the occasion of the Vietnamese New Year (the Year of the Cat) on February 13 at the Ottawa City Hall to thank the funding agencies, business sponsors, and volunteers who have contributed to their various activities over the years.

Among over 200 guests in attendance were the representatives of many Vietnamese organizations in the National Capital Region and some special invitees, including Phuc Nguyen, An Hoang, Tri Le, Thu Tran, Mong Nguyen, Hai Ngo, Hoi Nguyen, Uy Le, Ngoc Tran, An Vu, Vinh Tang, Phu Ngo, Nhung Nguyen, Thien Kim Nguyen, Valarie Bach, Phuong Mai, Calvin Nhan...

The guests from outside the Vietnamese community included John Baird, Government House Leader; Paul Dewar, Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre; Yasir Naqvi, Member of the Ontario Legislature for Ottawa Centre, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson; Diane Holmes, City Councillor for Somerset Ward; former Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps; former Secretary of State for Latin America David Kilgour; Eleanor Ryan and Barbara Gamble, formerly with Project 4000; Mary Lee, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board; Monica Wu and Robert Yip, Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society; Wayne Russetts, RCMP; Paul Bennett, Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Jack McCarthy, Somerset West Community Health Centre; Grace Xin, Chinatown Somerset Business Improvement Association (BIA); Awad Loubani, Ottawa Police Association; Ute Gerbrandt and Catherine Montgomery, Mennonite Church; Anna Chiappa, Canadian Ethnocultural Council (CEC); Sean Lundy, Lundy Construction; Barbara Wright, former Principal of the Cambridge Street Community Elementary School; Valerie Adams and Mary Tang, Scotiabank...



*Hon. John Baird with volunteers and guests  
Photo: HQ*

Judy Trinh, a reporter from CBC Television and Radio, served as MC for the event, supported by Ha Quyen in Vietnamese.



*Yen Truong, Kim Truong, Cécile Nguyen, Linda, and Chi Lan  
Photo: Caroline Phillips, Ottawa Citizen*

Following the Canadian and the free Vietnamese national anthems, Danh Nguyen, VCF's Commissioner for Internal Affairs and former Vice-President, opened the

reception by extending greetings to all the guests. He was followed by greetings from the guests of honour and by a presentation on the VCF's and VCC's activities by Can Le, VCF's Commissioner for External Affairs and former President.



*Students of the Tay Son Vietnamese Language School in the skit "Trip to the Huong Temple"  
Photo: HQ*

The buffet of the reception was provided by a number of organizations including the Tu An, Pho Da, and Hieu Giang Buddhist Temples in addition to many volunteers. The entertainment part was contributed by the Ottawa Music Band with Phuong Thu, Hong Nhung, Nghiem, Huy Dien, Tuan Hoa; the Lac Hong Vietnamese Traditional Music Band with Sau Chuyen and Janet Phung; students at the Tay Son Vietnamese Language School; Ivy O; and George Sapounidis, a well-known Greek Canadian singer in Ottawa.



*Diane Holmes, Judy Trinh, and Ha Quyen*  
*Photo: HQ*

Ngoc Vo, VCF's Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and Chair of the event's Organizing Committee, concluded the program by expressing thanks to the guests for their attendance, and to all the volunteers who have worked diligently to make the event a great success.

The reception was reported by the Ottawa Citizen's Caroline Phillips on February 14.

Some pictures can be seen in a Picasa album which can be accessed through the following link:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=rach.kien&target=ALBUM&id=5575422477406204353&authkey=Gv1sRgCNU3v5nNiOypOQ&feat=email>

*Ha Quyen*  
*Ottawa, February 22, 2011*  
*www.vietfederation.ca*