

## Head Tax

I'm puzzled. If I were asked to pay a fee when I immigrated to the land of opportunity—Canada—I would have thought it only natural. If I had to leave my home country because prospects there were poor, I would expect to pay a fee to enter a better place. In fact, I would be delighted that the citizens of that country would let me in to share their good fortune.

To say that Chinese immigrants were *forced* to pay a head tax to enter Canada is an exaggeration. I assume that they could have gone elsewhere, or stayed in their own country instead of paying the tax. And if Canada deliberately chose the people whom it invited into the country, well, isn't that the right of Canadians?

So why is Prime Minister Harper apologizing? Could he be trading Canada's dignity for votes?

Ted Scott