

Date	Event	More info	Reference	Source
1912	Saskatchewan first to pass legislation prohibiting Chinese from employing "any white woman or girl"		James W. St. G. Walker, "Race," Rights and the Law in the Supreme Court of Canada: Historical Case Studies (Waterloo: Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History and Wilfred Laurier University Press, 1997), 51-121.	footnote 21 "Making and Defending Intimate Spaces: White Waitresses Policed in Vancouver's Chinatown Cafes" by Rosanne Amosovs Sia, MA Thesis 2010
1914	Supreme Court of Canada upholds the right of provinces to enact racially discriminatory legislation as long as it does not contravene the British North America Act		Sia Footnote 22	22 Sia 2010
1919	BC last to enact Women and Girl's Protection legislation, omitting reference to Chinese and including "Indian" women or girls.		"Municipal Act Amendment Ac," S.B.C. 1919, c. 63, s. 13; "An Act for the Protection of Women and Girls in cases," S.B.C. 1923, c.76	25 Sia 2010
1919	Chinese Consul Yang Shu-Wen visits provincial legislature in Victoria to protest the legislation. Also meets with Victoria Chinese business owners.		1916, 3; 30 March 1917, 3; 7 April 1917, 3; 9 April 1917, 3; 10 April 1917, 3; 9 February 1918, 3; 22 February 1918, 3; 11 March 1918, 3; 22 March 1918, 3. Also see Files 5-7 (1916-1918, trans. Jenny Yue), Box 4 - Chinese Times Chronological Index, Chinese Canadian Research Collection, University of British Columbia Archives (UBC Archives); Chinese Times, 10 April 1919, 3; 11 April 1919, 3; 15 April 1919, 3; 17 April 1919, 2; 24 April 1919, 3; 28 April 1919, 3; 30 April 1919, 3.	27, 28 Sia 2010
1919	Chinese Times reports Cheng Yau fined \$20 plus court fees for hiring white woman in his New Westminster restaurant		Chinese Times, 26 April 1919, 3; 28 April 1919, 3.	30 Sia 2010
1 May 1922	The City Solicitor writes response to correspondence from the City Clerk regarding a resolution of the Great War Veterans Association related to the issue of employment of White girls by "Asiatics". The Clerk is informed that "the City has no power to pass any such by-law."	CVA		City of Vancouver Archive
10 Dec 1931	Mary Shaw, waitress working at the Pender Cafe (b.1918) was shot by an obsessed customer, Lee Dick, a private cook in a Shaughnessy Heights Home. Dick shot Mary then himself. Mary was the sole support for her mother, sister and niece.			Vancouver Sun, 21 Dec 1931, 1
21 Dec 1931	<a href="#">After the murder of white waitress Mary Shaw in the Chinatown Pender Cafe by customer Lee Dick, the Coroner's Jury recommends rigid enforcement of legislation that my exist governing the employment of white help by "orientals".</a>			Ask Protection of White Girls_The Province_The Vancouver Sun 21 Dec 1931, 18
22 Dec 1931	Dick found temporarily insane by the Coroner's Jury.			The Vancouver Sun 23 Dec 1931, 1
21 Dec 1931	POLICY: Coroner's Jury recommends rigid enforcement of legislation that my exist governing the employment of white help by "orientals".			Ask Protection of White Girls_The Province_The Vancouver Sun 21 Dec 1931, 18
Dec 1931	VPD Begin a campaign to ban white women from Chinatown cafes			
1935	Foster accepts position of Chief Constable after Mayor McGeer warned him of a Communist conspiracy to lead a general strike in Vancouver.	Foster had headed special police force that broke the longshoreman strike in 1923.	Lani Russwurm, "Constituting Authority: Policing Workers and the Consolidation of Police Power in Vancouver, 1918-1939" (M.A. Thesis, Simon Fraser University, 2007), 78.	48, 50 Sia 2010
abt 1935	City launches a general campaign against vice. Chief Constable Foster cracks down on gambling, disorderly houses, regulated cabarets and beer halls, pushed for "inspection and incarceration" of "prostitutes" for venereal disease.		Vancouver Police Department, Annual Reports, 1938, 24-27; 1939, 22; "Police - Gambling," Series 483, 33-F-1, File 1, VCA; "Police - Vice (1939)," Series 483, 33-F-1, File 2, VCA; "Cabaret Hours, Sunday mornings," Series 483, 27-D-3, File 17, VCA; "Beer Parlour Tax," Series 483, 27-C-6, File 8, VCA; "Bylaws re. Restaurants and Cabarets," Series 483, 27-C-4, File 23, VCA.	53 Sia 2010
Oct 1935	Vancouver Alderman Halford D. Wilson, proponent of anti-Asian policies, expresses concern about Chinese employing white women. Soon after Chief Constable Foster launches campaign.			55 Sia 2010
early 1936	Chief Constable Foster invokes the 1923 Women and Girl's Protection Act giving him the power to take legal action to protect the "morals" of "Indian" and white female employees. Since the law stated women needed to be made, restaurant owners replaced waitresses before case came to trial.		An Act for the Protection of Women and Girls in certain Cases," S.B.C. 1924, c. 275.	56 Sia 2010

mid 1936	<a href="#">Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local 28 waitresses launch campaign to organize cafes</a>	Trocadero and Scott's strike. See Marion Sarich interview <a href="#">F-67-1-0-32</a>			Sia 2010
<b>1937</b>					
1937	City licencing department assists Chief Constable Foster's actions by giving the power to the License Inspector to cancel business licenses if a chance of procurement underway.		Oscar Orr to Foster, 7 September 1937, "White Girls in Chinese Restaurants," Series 483, 33-D-6, File 4, CVA.		Sia 2010
Jan 1937	City refuses to issue new licenses to Hong Kong Cafe, Gee Kong Cafe, and B.C. Royal Cafe unless they agree to lay off white waitresses.				Sia 2010
Jan 1937	The Chinese Benevolent Association protests on behalf of restaurant owners. A compromise reached that Chinese-owend cafes will gradually phase out white female help. Owners ultimately conceded loss.	Owners thought they could maintain same number of white waitresses	Foster to Mayor Miller, 6 March 1937, "White Girls in Chinese Restaurants," Series 483, 33-D-6, File 4, CVA.	59	Sia 2010
1 Feb	25 of 28 white waitresses working in Chinatown march on City Hall to confront Mayor Miller regarding this policy.	Mayor told them to put complaint before Civic Licence Committee	news article	161	Sia 2010
8 Feb	Delegate Mrs. C. S. McMillan (Ethel M. MacMillan, wife of Clement S MacMillan, waiter, res. 7,6106 Chester) represents the 28 waitresses before the Civic Licence Committee				Sia 2010
9 Apr	Meeting at City Hall between Mayor Miller, Corporate Counsel, License Inspector, Superintendent Darling, and Dennis Murphy appearing on behalf of several Chinese Restaurants. (See <i>Chinese Restaurants Targeted</i> tab)				CVA S26 Box 027-D-07. Apr 9, 1937 Minutes
16 September	<a href="#">The City cancels the licenses of three Vancouver Chinese cafes (Hong Kong Cafe, Gee Kong Cafe, and B.C. Royal Cafe) over dispute on the hiring of White waitresses to work in their cafes. Denis Murphy (Murphy, Freeman and Murphy) is the cafes' counsel.</a>				Sia 2010
17 Sep	The labour paper, People's Advocate, condemns ban as discrimination against Chinese and depriving waitresses of work.			114	Sia 2010
18 Sep	Vancouver Sun newspaper lends some support to banning white waitresses and calls for a federal law to rule whether the employment of white waitresses by Chinese was "objectionable".		"Oriental Employers," Vancouver Sun, 18 September 1937, 4.	60	Sia 2010
18 Sep	<a href="#">Cafe owners Charles Ting, Toy Chew and Harry Lee following the cancellation of their licenses by the City of Vancouver, sue for an injunction to prevent interference in the running of their businesses.</a>				"Chinese Men Sue City", The Province, September 18, 1937.
18 Sep	Chief Constable Foster sends Mayor excerpts from previous police reports identifying waitresses critical of their policies. The document is intended to prove that white women are being morally corrupted by working in Chinese restaurants and as a counter-point to the White waitress activists.				Sia 2010
24 Sep	<a href="#">HREU Local 28 Business Agent, Bill Stewart, says their job is to "organize the help, whatever their color or creed, to get decent conditions and union wages"</a>	Published statement in Vancouver's communist newspaper <a href="#">The People's Advocate</a> . Sia notes that HREU mainly served the front end of house and sometimes bus boys; majority of male cooks did not want to join the union. Chinese cooks wary of the union's motivation. (See <a href="#">Emily Nutall interview transcript F-67-1-0-27</a> )	"Cafe Girls Rap Action of Council," People's Advocate, 24 September 1937, 1.	80	Sia 2010
25 Sep	<a href="#">15 White waitresses affected by legislation march to City Hall but were denied a meeting with the Mayor.</a>	Three restaurant licenses removed: Hong Kong Cafe, Gee Kong Cafe, and B.C. Royal Cafe.	ese Cafe Owners Dismiss 15 White Girls," Vancouver Sun, 25 September 1937, 1.	162	Sia 2010
29 Sep	After Chinese Benevolent Association lawyer, Denis Murphy, failed in negotiations with City Hall, and taking the complaint to the Supreme Court was rejected by owners, the owners agreed to fire their waitresses as a "goodwill gesture".	City Prosecutor Oscar Orr "regarded the CBA as an ally".	Murphy to Oscar Orr, 29 September 1937, "White Girls in Chinese Restaurants," Series 483, 33-D-6, File 4, CVA.	157	Sia 2010
30 Sep	CCF Alderman Alfred Hurry expresses some support for waitresses voting against the Mayor's motion for action.		"Chinese Restaurant Licenses Restored," Vancouver Sun, 28 September 1937, 18; "Plight of Girl Waitresses In Chinese Cafe Case Aired," Federationist, 30 September 1937, 1. Except for this article, the CCF Federationist did not report on the ban on white waitresses in Chinatown	112	Sia 2010
4 Oct	VPD detectives announce no white waitresses are working in Chinese District				White Girls Go_The Province 04 Oct 1937, Mon Page 3
1 Oct	Agreement made between restaurants and City "to dispense of" all white girls employed in the restaurants.	This was commonly referred to in the press as "a gentleman's agreement".			VPD Chief Constable Foster correspondence, 18 Jul 1938. CVA S483 33-F-3

1 Oct	Lawyer Garfield A King, I representative of the Women's Labour League, met with Vancouver City Council on behalf of waitresses	CCF, WLL, Vancouver Mother's Council spoke out against leg. Sia suggest they were arguing for consistent (therefore expansion of) application against Chinese only, not Greek or Japanese. <b>Need to look at original docs as its unlikely they would be arguing to have policy directed towards Greeks who owned large quantities of restaurants in the upscale downtown core, except as an argument against the enforcement.</b>			"City Refuses Plea for Girls, Vancouver Sun, 1 Oct 1937, 2.
1 Oct	CCF Alderman Pettipiece said waitresses should be denied relief as no such provision was made for bartenders when prohibition came into effect.				"City Refuses Plea for Girls, Vancouver Sun, 1 Oct 1937, 2.
1 Oct	Lawyer Garfield A King, Counsel reported demographics of the white waitresses working in Chinatown cafes: 30 white waitresses working in Chinatown, 29 Canadian, average age 22, 2.7 years average period employed as waitresses, 1 in 3 married, 25 dependents, 2.7 years average period employed as waitresses	King compiled this demographic info from meeting with waitresses.			"City Refuses Plea for Girls, Vancouver Sun, 1 Oct 1937, 2.
27 Oct	<a href="#">HREU Loc 28 has unionized 28 restaurants. Still no mention of the ban on white waitresses in Chinese restaurants in meeting minutes.</a>	HREU viewing the issue in moral, not workers' rights, terms. Stewart did make 2 statements against police/govt action in <a href="#">The Peoples' Advocate</a> . Babara Gale, Stewart's wife, later became BA of the HREU, expresses anti-Chinese sentiment in SD interview.			Sia 2010
Nov 1937	Charlie Ting (Chinese Benevolent Association President) and Gee Kong Cafe owner, Harry Lee, almost lost licenses when police discovered them feeding former waitresses in return for unpaid hours of work.	Owners said they were following Confucian believe of feeding the hungry.	"City Restores Licenses to Two Chinese Cafes," Vancouver Sun, 24 November 1937, 4; "Vancouver, Canada -Chinese Benevolent Association Book of Reports, 1938," Box 12, Foon Sien Wong fonds, UBC RBSC. After they were fired, the waitresses also declared their intention to "[canvass] Chinese merchants for funds" so they could fight the ban at city council, "Ousted Girls Fight Ruling," People's Advocate, 8 October 1937, 3.	160	Sia 2010
<b>1938</b>					
23 Feb 1938	<a href="#">Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local Joint Executive Board approves funds to begin organizing Chinese restaurant workers.</a>				<a href="#">Hotel, Restaurant and Culinary Employees' and Bartenders' Union, Local 40 fonds</a>
8 Mar	<a href="#">Local Joint Executive Board to start advertising in the Chinese Daily newspaper as part of organizing strategy.</a>				
27 Apr	<a href="#">Local Joint Executive Board hires Wong Toy as a dedicated Chinese cooks organizer.</a>				
29 Jun	<a href="#">After press and distribution of mimeographed leaflets a meeting was called outside of Chinatown, but was unsuccessful. Hoping moving it to Chinatown would increase attendance, that meeting failed to. Wong Toy's report suggested a "lack of understanding" [of trade unionism] by the Chinese cook and the potential threat that an employer would dismiss them and take on white help. "The situation is not hopeless, but it will be a long drawn-out affair."</a>				
16 Aug	City attempts to close the C.K. Chop Suey Restaurant before its opening. Owner Ting said he thought he had the right to have white waitresses based on past agreement. His license is suspended.				Vancouver Sun, Aug 16, 1938, "Chinese to Defy Cafe License Cancellation"
<b>1939</b>					
7 Mar	14 white waitresses previously employed in Chinatown restaurants presented a petition to City Council in response to a "gentleman's agreement" for the restaurants not to hire white women.	The 4 points in the document are: 1. the basic right to work for legitimate employment; the restaurants are already under police supervision and follow all laws; 3.that single women cannot properly sustain themselves on relief yet cannot find other employment; 4. that the restaurants would reemploy them with the support of the Mayor Telford and Council. [At same meeting motion was brought forward for Council to urge businessmen's assns to have their members stop hiring married women. while a move to hire more men it was framed by some as a way to ensure single women are employed. Helen Gutteridge shot it down and only 2 councilors ended up supporting it]			The Province "would Break Agreement: White Waitresses Seeking Old Jobs in Chinese Cafes", 7 Mar 1939,1.

8 Mar	City Council confirms Chief Constable Foster's authority to act on Women and Girl's Protection Act. Corporation Counsel D. H. McTaggart says the Chief has no blanket authority and would have to justify his action on a case-by-case basis.				"The Daily Province", March 8, 1939.
20 Mar	Ting dies one month before ban challenged.	First public funeral for a Chinese official in Canada	"Impressive Ceremony At Chinese Funeral," Vancouver Sun, 20 March 1939, 3.	182	Sia 2010
21Mar	Chinatown waitresses, who claimed they still had no jobs, petitioned city to lift ban.	Decision turned over by civic finance committee to Chief Foster who upheld his position	"Ban to Stay on White Waitresses," Vancouver Sun, 21 March 1939, 11. Also see "Employment of White Girls In Chinatown Up to Foster," Province, 8 March 1939, 9.	179	Si 2010
<b>1945</b>					
3 May	<a href="#">A newspaper article documenting the HREU (AFL)'s call for changes to shift work in cafes and restaurants, following the murder of waitress Olga Hawryluk by a customer. She had been returning home from work at 3am. Speaking for HREU are Mrs. Emily Watts, HREU organizer, and Mrs. May Ansell [AKA Martin], HREU Business Agent.</a>				