Kuomintang’s Influence in East Canada and beyond: 
A Case Study of Shing Wah Daily News

Stephen Qiao
China Studies Librarian, Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library
University of Toronto

Abstract
First published in Toronto in 1922, Shing Wah Daily News (Shing Wah Yat Po, 醒華日報) was the official organ of overseas branch of Kuomintang (KMT, or Guomindang, Chinese Nationalist Party). Long span of publication and broad coverage of international, national and local news made it one of the most important Chinese language newspapers in Canada. KMT and its predecessor Xing zhong hui (Society for China's Regeneration) started their activities on Canada’s soil as early as 1910s. Dr. Sun Yat-sen made fund raising efforts in Vancouver and Victoria at the dawn of revolution. After the establishment of the Republic, KMT set its Western Canadian headquarters in Vancouver in 1911. Their influence spread from there eastward to the other parts of Canada. The KMT’s branches increased to 16 between 1911 and 1920, including three in Ontario: in Windsor, Toronto and Kinston. In 1921, after the second general conference of all delegates in Toronto, the party’s organization structure and working plan had been laid out and to publish an official newspaper was the one in their initial agenda items. Since then, the newspaper itself played a very important role in motivating Chinese immigrants during the Sino-Japanese War. Its influence as the voice of nationalist government in Taiwan continued during the Cold War era. Since the US normalized its diplomatic relationship with the PRC in 1979, the importance of KMT government on overseas Chinese communities has been subdued by the communist China. Shing Wah Daily News finished its own historic mission as the organ of KMT and faded out eventually in early 1990s. During its over a half-century publication, Shing Wah Daily News was used by KMT to convoy their messages out to the Chinese community in Toronto and beyond. The current paper will discuss the role of the newspaper played and how it exerted influence upon the local Chinese immigrants in different periods of time based on the information extracted from the newspaper and other resources.