

# Shen Yun returns to Canada

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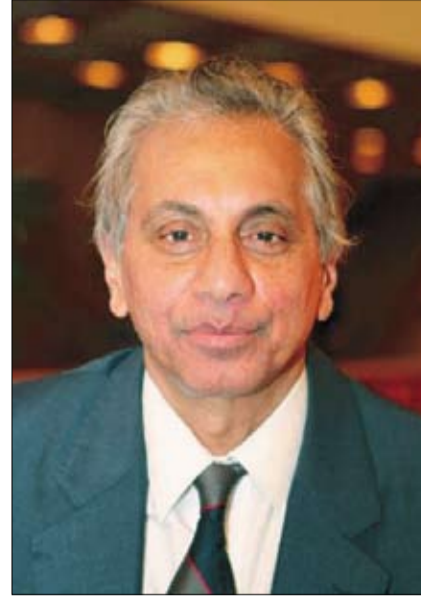
*"I don't know how many hundreds of performers are involved in this. But between the musicians, the performers, the number of costume changes, the extent of the lighting, the writing, the effects—there's almost no show like this anywhere."*

- J.B. Miller, Emmy Award-winning producer and co-founder of Empire Entertainment



*"The show is really amazing. [The dancers] looked very light, and they brought me a kind of visual and spiritual joy."*

- Fang Quiting, editor-in-chief of Ming Dao Literature and Arts magazine



*"It was so marvelous; it transported me back in time, in the sense of a beautiful, wonderful, quintessential Chinese culture... it's extraordinarily high quality. It enhances all of us."*

- Prof. Cyril Dabydeen, award-winning Canadian writer, poet and critic, co-winner of the top Guyana Prize for Fiction in 2007, nominee for Int'l IMPAC Dublin Literary Award



*"It's a wonderful performance."*

- Yoine Goldstein, Canadian Senator

*"I'm very touched; I am leaving with a lot of music in my soul and my heart. Tonight's show has touched us deeply."*

- Mr. Nedelcsu, renowned Romanian tenor from Germany

## NATION BRIEFS

### Police target guns, gangs in pre-dawn raids

TORONTO (Reuters)—At least 125 people were arrested in pre-dawn raids on Wednesday in what police described as the largest-ever such operation against guns and gang crime in Ontario.

More than 1,000 officers were involved in the raids in the Toronto area that "targeted a high level of organized crime," Toronto police said. They also seized more than 40 firearms, cocaine, marijuana and other drugs.

The investigation looked into violent crimes dating as far back as 2003, according to investigators, who said the charges include attempted murder, conspiracy and trafficking in weapons and drugs.

The arrests primarily targeted two gangs, the "MNE" and "400 Crew", who are based in southern and eastern Toronto, but involved crimes in several communities in the area, police said.

Forty-six of the people charged were members of the two gangs, but police said the arrests also included several people responsible for the distribution of guns and drugs to gangs throughout the Toronto area.

Police said more arrests were possible.

### Canada to pay U.S. for breaching lumber deal

VANCOUVER (Reuters)—Canada will reluctantly pay the United States nearly \$50 million for breaching a trade agreement covering softwood lumber exports, an official said on Tuesday.

Canada will pay the money rather than imposing a surcharge on lumber exports from four provinces that an international tribunal ruled had exceeded their shipment quotas under the trade deal, Trade Minister Stockwell Day said.

A month ago, the LCIA tribunal (formerly the London Court of International Arbitration) said Canada had miscalculated lumber quotas from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for six months in 2007, allowing producers to ship too much.

The tribunal gave Canada the option of paying the United States the amount in damages that U.S. lumber producers suffered because of the overshipments or imposing a 10 percent surcharge on lumber exports from the provinces.

"At this difficult time for the industry, Canada chose this payment alternative instead of imposing an additional export charge, which would result in further mill closures and job losses in communities," Day said in written statement.

Canada said it still believes the ruling was wrong. It calculated the damages at \$46.7 million, but will pay more if the tribunal rules that was not enough, officials said.

The countries signed the seven-year trade deal in 2006 to settle a long-running fight over allegations Canada improperly subsidizes its lumber producers, which supply about 30 percent of the construction lumber used in the United States.

# The rise and fall of Chinese 'Buffet'

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It was in Toronto in 1995 that Tang is said to have discovered his knack for trading, first by managing mutual funds for family and friends.

Two years later he formed what would later become the Weizhen Tang Corporation, one of three company's run by Tang that have now been named in the security commission complaint. His wife and daughter are listed as directors and officers of one company, according to the OSC filing.

If it sounds unlikely that a man with no formal training in economics would rise to be the investment "king," with claims of 1 percent weekly returns, it's perhaps because Tang is an unlikely character. His role models include the world's best-known investor Warren Buffet, as well as hard line communist ruler Mao Zedong and pragmatist Deng Xiaoping, according to Tang's Chinese blog.

Tang succeeded in earning trust from other ethnic Chinese by presenting himself as someone who could help them succeed in an unfamiliar world. His investors included ethnic Chinese in Canada, the U.S., and Mainland China.

In an article on the Weizhen Tang Corporation website where Tang shares his "road to Buffettian wealth," Tang argues that the fears shared by Chinese immigrants are barriers to their success in North

America.

"The majority of Chinese refrain from trusting others," Tang wrote. "On the rare occasions when we must, however, we are ever plagued by feelings of worry and suspicion. Many of us fear that someone might covertly make profit from us, or even cheat us. What we do not seem to understand is that we ourselves will not be able to make money if we stop others from doing the same."

As Tang's wealth grew, so did his reputation and influence. He was among those invited to welcome Chinese leader Hu Jintao on his visit to Canada in 2005. He was also welcomed as a representative of overseas Chinese by Chinese officials at a 2007 meeting of the United Front, an important organization used by the Communist Party to expand influence abroad.

In Canada, Mr. Tang was also an advocate of the Chinese regime's policies. When Chinese police cracked down violently on protesting monks in Tibet in 2008, Mr. Tang came forward with the funds for dozens of buses to bring Chinese to Ottawa for a rally supporting the Chinese government's stance that Communist rule had liberated Tibetans, he boasts on his blog.

For the event, Tang says he was prepared to spend up to \$200,000.

"My role was to set the goal, provide funds, instruct how the capital was to be used, shoulder the risk, and do things that others can't and

don't dare to do," he wrote.

Tang also enjoyed close ties with the Chinese consulate in Toronto. In January 2009 alone he organized and funded two events at which the consul general was a guest speaker.

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And in February and March, he was recognized twice with an

award for having organized the rally against the Tibetan cause last year. Both times the consul general was again in attendance.

In its March 24 submission to the securities commission, investigators now say Mr. Tang admitted in an interview to losing \$15 million in 2007 while reporting a profit to investors.

The commission claims it has evidence that Tang was also paying old investors with funds from new investors.

Tang and his companies are also accused of trading securities without being registered with the commission and without filing a prospectus.

For Tang's part, he has stressed that no formal charges have been laid against him to date. In a series of letters posted on the Weizhen Tang Corporation website, he has admitted to making mistakes, but has denied benefiting personally.

"I did not steal everyone's funds," he said in the first of five letters.

"I am not like Ponzi or Mad-off, because even my car is a leased one," he wrote in the latest, posted Monday.

Tang has said that if given the chance, he would earn back the money he lost. And, it seems, many investors want him to have the chance.

In a petition claiming to represent 116 investors that was posted by Tang to his company's website

on Sunday, the OSC was asked to lift the ban on Tang's trading.

"Most investor clients of Weizhen Tang believe that, as overseas Chinese and a minority in Canada, non-physical confrontations should be solved internally," the letter read.

It said failure to lift the ban would result in "total, unrecoverable loss of our investments. This is something that we cannot accept on any terms."

Neither Tang's lawyer nor the investors presented the petition to the committee on Wednesday. Tang's lawyer instead stressed that his client was cooperating with investigators.

But one investor was present on Wednesday, a man who identified himself as Mr. Liu, a former doctor from China now in his 60s and out of work.

Mr. Liu said he'd invested with Tang since 2002 and says he lost most of his life savings.

"The thing I most like to do now is to have my money back," Liu said.

"I had seen my investments grow in the statements from Tang, but I'd never withdrawn any money."

Tang never warned Mr. Liu that there was risk in the investment, Mr. Liu says.

"I hope he can continue his job if the law allows. But if the law says he has to go to jail, so be it."

*Additional reporting by Masha Ma and Anna Yang.*

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