

STATEMENT

Statement on Prime Minister Trudeau's response to Conservative questions about collaboration with China

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, ON – The Hon. Michael Chong, Conservative Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Kenny Chiu, Conservative Shadow Minister for Diversity, Inclusion, and Youth, released the following statement about Prime Minister Trudeau's comments in response to Conservatives' questions about China's People's Liberation Army scientists:

"When Prime Minister Trudeau conflates criticism of China's government with anti-Asian racism, he plays into the propaganda efforts of China's communist leadership. Beijing's goal is to conflate legitimate criticism of China's government with intolerance towards anyone of Chinese heritage.

"This is the sort of rhetoric that Canadians have come to expect from China's communist leadership. For example, in January 2019, the Chinese ambassador accused Canada and its Western allies of white supremacy simply for calling for the release of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor.

"Those critical of China's government are not causing anti-Asian racism. In fact, many of the Chinese government's critics are those who have fled repression in China to seek refuge in Canada. Rather, it is people motivated by hate and discrimination against Asians who are using China's threats as an opportunity to drive anti-Asian racism.

"We are very proud of the contributions that the Chinese community has made and continues to make to Canada. Our quarrel is not with the people of China, but with the communist leadership in Beijing that is threatening our citizens, our economy, and our values.

"While Asian Canadians have seen a rise in intolerance, Members of the Liberal Party have said that Prime Minister Trudeau has not done enough to address the issue of anti-Asian racism in Canada. Only Canada's Conservatives will continue to fight against anti-Asian racism and stand up against the Chinese Communist Party's threats and campaign of human rights abuses, including genocide.

"We call upon the Prime Minister to retract his comments and answer the questions Conservatives have been asking in the House of Commons about the threats from China's government."

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