

## Ask Me Anything: Asian Heritage Month

Recognition, Resilience, and Resolve



Featuring: Clark Jang, Suzanne Kye and Lisa Wong  
Moderated by: Samantha Moonsammy and Gemma Irwin

## Ask Me Anything: Asian Heritage Month *Recognition, Resilience, and Resolve*

- Featuring: Clark Jang, Suzanne Kye and Lisa Wong
- Co-hosted by: Gemma Irwin and Samantha Moonsammy
- Date and time: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 1:00PM - 2:30PM EST
- Audience: Open to all Government of Canada employees
- To register: <https://forms.gle/bvbs4TNRkfpkZgbo8>
- Link: Zoom <https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/62129080218>  
Passcode: 720895

Information and resources for the AMA: Asian Heritage Month can be found [here](#).  
Past recordings of AMAs can be viewed at this YouTube [link](#).

### Event Description

Join us as we welcome our speakers Clark Jang, Suzanne Kye and Lisa Wong to the Ask Me Anything stage. This month we will be celebrating Asian Heritage Month and exploring the impact of the rise of Asian hate #StopAsianHate and the myth of the model minority in North America.

### Registration

We encourage everyone to submit anonymous questions for our guest speakers via the [registration form](#). This is your chance to Ask Me Anything!

Live questions will also be taken during the event.

If you are interested in being a speaker at an upcoming Ask Me Anything or if you need accommodation to participate please contact [Katie.freer@canada.ca](mailto:Katie.freer@canada.ca) or [Samantha.moonsammy@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Samantha.moonsammy@forces.gc.ca) or [CCG Internal Communications Team](#).

### About the Ask Me Anything Series

This is the fifth in our series of Ask Me Anything Sessions that are giving us a platform to share stories, listen, ask respectful questions and continue on our journey to becoming more inclusive organizations.

## Panelists

### **Clark Jang, Senior Analyst, Human Resources, Department of National Defence.**

Clark is a jack-of-all-trades public servant who's passionate about doing cool work with good people.

Over the past five years he's worked across the spectrum of human resources—policy, operational and strategic—with some of Canada's most dedicated public servants and military personnel. He was a Strategic Advisor to the Head of HR. He led HR's preparation for a national class action lawsuit on sexual misconduct. And he solved complex labour relations issues with military managers, union representatives and employees.

Clark's cultural identity is heavily influenced by his experiences as a biracial man growing up in an increasingly globalized world. He was born and raised in Vancouver and has been fortunate enough to have visited and made friends in 27 countries around the world. Clark has lived in Halifax, Sweden, and now presently resides in Ottawa.

### **Suzanne Kye, Manager of the Compassionate Exemption Program, Public Health Agency of Canada**

Suzanne was born and raised in Richmond Hill, Ontario, a community with a large immigrant population where many of her peers were second generation Canadians.

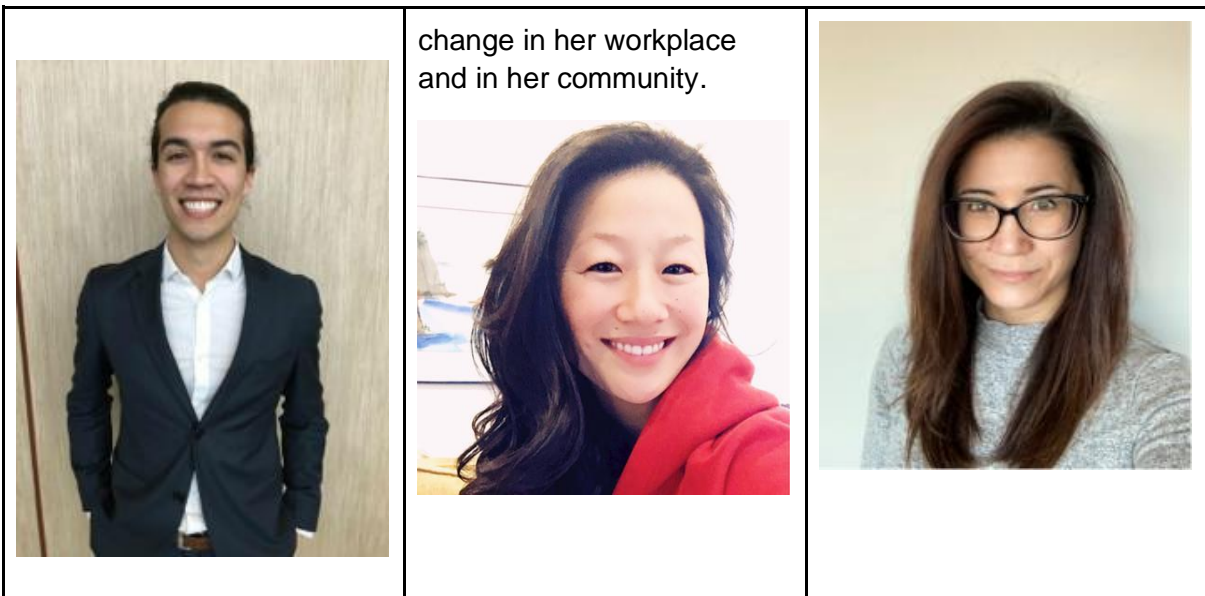
Suzanne obtained an undergraduate degree in Political Science with a focus in International Relations and a Masters degree in communications at Carleton University. She joined the Public Service in 2009, and has since worked at a number of departments.

The pandemic and the rise of anti-Asian hate has been an awakening for Suzanne. As a Canadian of Korean descent living in Ottawa and working in the Public Service, Suzanne oftentimes experienced what she can now identify as tokenism and micro-aggressions. Knowing how to vocalize experiences of inequity and marginalization has long been a struggle. Recent events and subsequent activism by racialized communities has helped to validate experiences she has long internalized and moved her to find the courage and voice to take tangible action for sustained

### **Lisa Wong, Project Manager, Department of National Defence**

Lisa joined DND in early 2020, has over 11 years of experience in managing highly political and complex major procurement projects. Lisa holds a Bachelor in Arts, a graduate certificate in Project Management, and a Project Management Professional designation.

Lisa is a Chinese-Italian born Canadian who was raised in both Montreal and then Ottawa. Lisa is no stranger to culture differences as well as impacts of being an immigrant. Over the past 17 years working for the Government of Canada, Lisa has tackled intersectional biases and discrimination as well as systemic racism that exist in the public service. Lisa is an advocate for inclusivity and leverages a strength of individualization that seeks to see each person as one of a kind. She focuses on uniqueness because she believes people should not be dropped into broad categories. She has used this over the years to advocate for herself, for others and to facilitate negotiations.



**Who should attend:** All public servants are welcome to join.

As individuals you can't necessarily change where you live, you certainly can't change your past, but you can adjust who influences you—through the authors you read, music you listen to, movies you watch and interactions with your community. The Ask Me Anything series provides you with an opportunity to increase your perspective—to learn from the lived-experiences of individuals who are bravely sharing their experiences to help educate and move the public service towards a culture where equity is embedded.

The series also provides an opportunity for you to know that you aren't alone, these experiences, especially the negative ones are systemic and happen all too frequently throughout the public service. The objective by shining this light is to continually increase the network of public servants ready to take action and move forward towards a culture of inclusivity and belonging.

### **Mission - Ask Me Anything Series**

We recognize that individuals are composed of a multitude of layers that make us who we are. We do not fit easily in one box or another and we can't be neatly counted. We represent the mosaic of Canada.

It is important that we find value in each other's experiences, differences and unique characteristics. When we build our cultural competency we are able to work better together in our teams and respond to each other with relevance, empathy and compassion. By celebrating and sharing our authentic selves, we gain greater appreciation of each other and the diversity that surrounds us.

We know through diversity, workplaces and communities are stronger, more successful and resilient. And most important, it creates spaces of inclusion and fosters a workplace of belonging where people feel valued.

**Inclusion in action. Ask Me Anything production credits.**

Thank you to our contributors from across the Public Service of Canada – Canadian Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Health Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, National Defence and Public Health Agency of Canada.

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