

May 18, 2008

**Opening speech by mr. Rays Chiu, President of my table tennis club**

Good afternoon the Honourable John McCallum, Minister Michael Chan, Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Mr. Tony Kiesenhofer, Mr. Larry Laughlen, Honoured Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Two years ago, I had a dream - a dream of playing table tennis in a decent environment in my hometown Markham.

I sincerely hope that MyTTC will become the breeding ground for a new wave of amateur and professional table tennis players in Markham, and deliver new bloods to the Ontario Provincial and the Canadian National Teams.

I'd like to share with you the design of our multi-coloured logo. Different ethnic groups with different skin colours are equally welcome under our roof. Players of different levels from beginners to professionals are also welcome.

With our dedicated coaches and enthusiastic members, I'm sure our brand new facility serves as a catalyst for the enhanced development of table tennis sport in Ontario in the foreseeable future.

This is important as the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and the Olympic Committee are tightening the rules for players to represent their National Team. It would become more difficult for new immigrant players to play for Canada. Training locally is everything now.

I'm proud to tell you that MyTTC has 9,000 square feet of floor area, a 38-foot high ceiling, 20 top quality tables, non-slip plastic flooring, competition-approved lighting, professional coaching, quality companion practice, pro shop, coffee lounge, etc.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OTTA and the CTTA for their full support. My heart felt appreciation also goes to my team of coaching staff, all my members and my family.

Today, ladies & gentlemen, I'm very pleased to say that my two-year old dream finally comes true.