

BACKSCENE



A COVID-19 Timeline

Back to Calgary from China: the relief and isolation

William Reader at the Reader's Garden Cafe

Epidemic essentials - we're giving you the list and where

Arpil, 2020 | \$5.00



BACKSCENE

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Backscene is a general-interest magazine that is based in Calgary. It publishes monthly to focus on the cultural aspects of local living with a journalistic approach, reflecting the behind-the-scene moments for everyone in the city that makes up our lives. Readers turn to the magazine for personal stories that relate to themselves, as well as the cultural and lifestyle monuments in Calgary, but it is not just a simple lifestyle magazine, we believe that the stories of hard work, the bittersweet and joy behind every successful moment are worth being told.



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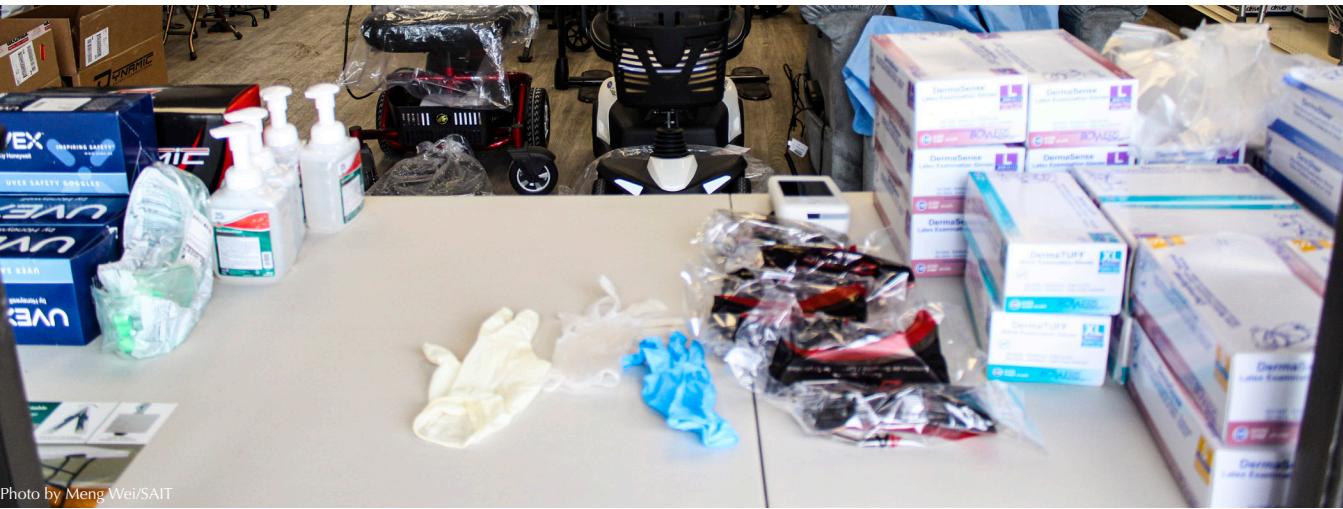


Photo by Meng Wei/SAIT



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Photo by Meng Wei/SAIT



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19



On the familiar eerie street

A COVID-19 Timeline: The good, the bad and the ugly

The elaborated timeline that tells you what you need to know, from how it started to what's creating the future

**Back to Calgary from China:
the relief and isolation**

The true story of a Calgary resident isolating herself after experiencing the epidemic and fear in China.

April 2020 | BACKSCENE PANDEMIC

Curiosity

- **How careful can you be?**
P.1 An extremely detailed prevention measure that ensure every step is clean.

Better

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P.8 Know what you would need, from alcohol wipes to protective suit

Monthly

- **Calgary news update**
P.22 Total cases, mayor's address, and more

Interview

- **William Reader at the Reader's Garden Cafe**
P.16 An interview with the owner of the serene and scenic cafe in the Reader Rock Garden

Social Lab

- **What's the first thing you would do after all of this is over?**

How careful can you be?



Wendy Wong is a 26-year-old international student at the University of Calgary from Wuhan, China. Living in Calgary for about 5 years, the Calgarian and Wuhan mindsets not only co-exist perfectly in her but also add to one another. Her striving actions for success, or even survival, could seem strange in the eyes of Wuhaners, or the eyes of the Calgarians, but for the international students here, they can probably guess her logics and reasons just about right.

International students come to Canada alone for a different experience and perhaps a better future. Through time, they have adapted some lifestyle changes from their new environment, but the tie to home is never faded.

Like many international students, the bond between Wong and her family is more pronounced with the separation, especially when a pandemic broke.

In the last week of January, when the world drew in a breath for the first-ever full-scale city lockdown, Wong looked all over Calgary trying to find some masks to send back. Her families are in the epicenter Wuhan — with the lockdown that cuts off every connection within even a building, the kinship that ties across continents is straining tighter than ever.

"I worry, of course! They are fine, but I must do what I can to help with anything I can. Even the city is in shut down but there is a Green Passage for medical supplies to go in," she announced.

"The places that have the supplies are just hiking the price," says Wong, frustrated at the merchants in China profiting on the epidemic. She then turned around and sent a message to her friends in Calgary, "Let's be careful, too."

Before Calgarians starts paying attention to the coronavirus, Wong already stopped meeting up with her friends. "She said no gathering for now. She's in epi-prevention mode," said Wong's roommate. Her friends didn't understand why she was being so careful. "I feel like there's not really an epidemic happening," said Wong's close friend Wen Xu. Wong persisted with no meet-up.

On March 6, Calgary had its first presumptive case of the COVID-19 virus. When the pandemic escalated to full scale and Calgary is finally experiencing the effect of the virus spread, Wong is calm. "I have some knowledge and preparations, so I'm not at a panic level," she

said.

She said she would speak with the families almost every day. "They are worried, wondering why no quarantine order has been placed," Wong said.

By mid-March, she went to the mall to return a Lego set that she ordered online. She was well prepared. "If I need to buy stuff, I would go in the morning. There are only a few people," said Wong.

She said that she would take off the shoes outside of her door, put down her groceries, sanitize the bottom of her shoes, then she would wipe everything she has brought back. Since she lives in an apartment building, she has taped a hand-made filter to her vent opening. Even though she is well aware that the virus doesn't transmit through air, she wants to be on the safer side.

"I'm worried for sure. Considering previous experience, this virus is smart and stubborn, but there's also an understanding of Canada's deployment and prevention."

Following the direction of local authorities, Wong didn't wear masks. "No one wears it, but maybe later I will," she explains. She still goes to school, takes work shifts, and goes about her day like other Calgary university students. Though to take preventative measures to this extent, Wong is an outlier in Calgary, but a norm in Wuhan.

Wong lives in two cities simultaneously, with her family in one city, and with the characteristics, her hometown gifted to her in another one. It's reasonable to say that she is more acute to the differences between the two cities, but also more connected to each one of the two cities than local residents.

"I'm not sure how this pandemic situation is going to impact Calgary. I hope it'll continue to develop and get better for sure," said Wong. "Living here all these years, I have friends and families, but China is growing continuously, it'll offer more opportunities."

She said she would go back to her home country after finishing school — her family is in China, she can make a pretty stable income, and the city is more convenient for her in general. For now, just like how she decided to study in Canada, she looks forward to a better future in China.

A COVID-19 Timeline

The good, bad and the ugly



Photo by Martin Sanchez/Unsplash

January, 2020

WHO

Incident Management Support Team

- 4th: WHO reported on social media about the pneumonia cases without death, and published Disease Outbreak News the next day.
- 10th: WHO issued guideline packages to "all countries on how to detect, test and manage potential cases."
- 22nd - 28th: WHO experts travelled to China to gain understanding of the context and response, as well as to offer technical assistance.
- 30th: WHO declared global public health emergency.

-who.net

Reports of first cases outside of China

- Thailand on Jan. 13
- Japan on Jan. 15
- South Korea on Jan. 20
- By Feb. 1, other countries reported confirmed cases including Canada, U.S., Australia, Russia, and 7 others in Europe, 10 in Asia (excluding China).

-WHO Situation Reports

Feb. 4, 2020

Yokohama, Japan

The Diamond Princess cruise ship

- CBC reported the cruise ship was quarantined by the Japanese government when it arrived at Yokohama after a passenger is tested positive. Questions have been raised since 542 total were tested positive out of 3711 people on the ship during the two weeks quarantine period.
- Passengers who are tested positive were transported to local hospital while others stayed in their cabins with limited freedom to move around the ship.
- Canada, U.S. Australia and Hong Kong all sent out chartered flights to transport their citizens back to their countries, and some passengers who cleared the test also left voluntarily before all passengers embarked on Feb. 27.

- Diamond Princess, CBC

Feb. 19, 2020

Canada

Back from the "floating jail house"

- CBC reported that out of the 256 passengers on board Diamond Princess cruise ship, 47 were already hospitalized in Japan, and the rest made it back to Canada and were isolated for 14 days.
- A total of 32 Canadians contracted the virus.
- One Canadian passenger died in Japan on March 20.

- CBC

March 6, 2020

Calgary, Canada

Alberta's first presumptive case

- A women in her 50s is the first presumptive case in Alberta. She started self-isolation a week after arriving in Calgary because she showed COVID-19 symptoms.
- AHS said Alberta is still "low risk."

- CBC

March 11, 2020

WHO

Pandemic Declared

- March 11, 10 a.m. WHO reported 118,319 total confirmed cases and 4,292 death across 114 countries/territories/areas.
- Europe became the new epicentre.
- Global News reported that Canada has 117 cases confirmed as of March 13.

- WHO Situation Reports, Global News

Dec. 31, 2019

Wuhan, China

A cluster of pneumonia cases

- Before reporting to WHO, the Chinese officials is accused of having denied the virus transmission and silencing the doctors who tried to warn the public on a virus outbreak.
- This novel coronavirus is suspected to have originated from a seafood market in Wuhan.

- 4 Corners, CBC

Jan. 23, 2020

Wuhan, China

First city-scale lockdown in world history

- A day before the New Year's Eve in China, all transportation in, to, and from Wuhan were suspended, leaving only "green channels" for medical supplies. 15 other cities in the same province also placed quarantine orders later in January, affecting roughly 59 million people.
- China faced human-right accusations for its strict quarantine measures, although the lockdown was effective to contain the epidemic. The lockdown was lifted in April 8 with no new domestic cases.

- Various news outlets

Feb. 7, 2020

CFB Trenton, Canada

Canadians evacuated from Hubei

- CTV reported the first plane carrying 176 evacuees landed at CFB Trenton Friday morning.
- A U.S. government-chartered flight landed hours later, carrying another 39 Canadians.
- 185 evacuees landed with the second plane on the next Tuesday, with many more pleading for a third plane from Hubei province.

- CTV News

Feb. 11, 2020

WHO

"COVID-19"

- WHO announced that the name of the novel coronavirus will be "COVID-19."

- who.net

87,137

cases globally

March 8, 2020

Italy

Lock down ... attempted?

- The New York Times reported that Italy decided to lockdown the northern part on March 8. Although the order leaked early, and many fled the area before the order takes effect on March 12, 16 million people are restricted.
- CNN reported that Chinese experts who travelled to Italy to aid the epidemic said the lockdown measures were "not strict enough," or "too lax."
- The lockdown created a similar situation to the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantine where there's a high community transmission.
- Italy later extended the lockdown as its death toll surpassing China.

- New York Times, CNN, Reuters

823,626

cases globally

March 27, 2020

Canada

Surpassing SARS

- CTV reported that 53 Canadians have died from COVID-19. In 2003, SARS caused 44 death in Canada during a six-month time-span.

- CTV News

March, 2020

Canada

Canada vs. the virus

- 12th: Ontario ordered public school closures
- 14th: Edmonton closed public facilities
- 15th: Alberta ordered all classes cancelled, daycares closed; Calgary declares State of Local Emergency.
- 17th: Ontario started shutting down non-essential businesses
- 18th: Federal aid package announced; Canada-U.S. border closed for non-essential travels
- 23rd: Quebec closed non-essential businesses
- 25th: Mandatory self-isolation for international travellers announced
- 27th: Calgary posed further restrictions to some business and gathering
- 31st: WHO situation report showed Canada has 7,695 total confirmed cases.

-Global News, City of Calgary, various news outlets

South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore's success without lockdowns

- Forbes reports that despite their close proximity to China and dense populations, these three regions have successfully controlled the spread of the epidemic while maintaining "a sense of normality."
- Forbes contributed the success because of their quick responses including travel restrictions, early adoption of face masks, rationing important supplies and effective testing.

- Forbes

April 15, 2020

U.S.A.

WHO funding cut

- CBC reported that Donald Trump cuts WHO funding after criticizing WHO for being "too lenient" on China.
- After the G7 and G20 summit, the U.S. seems to have stopped taking the role of a world leader who would coordinate a global effort with other countries to stop the pandemic.

- CBC, CNN

April 6, 2020

Canada

Changes from Dr. Tam

- Dr. Tam commented that non-medical masks could help prevent the spread of the virus, shifting from the message at the beginning of the outbreak indicating that masks would not be effective.
- 3M also made a deal with the White House to continue with shippings to Canada after the U.S. president stated that he wants to halt N95 mask exports to Canada and Latin America.
- China was also accused of stashing supplies and sending defected masks and medical supplies to other countries.

- The Globe and Mail, BBC

April 3, 2020

Europe and North America

"The war of masks"

- The Guardian reported that U.S. was accused of diverting masks shipments from China to France, Germany and Brazil, and Turkey was also allegedly holding shipments that was already paid for by Belgium and Italy.
- Other shipment "pirating" involved other countries including Czech Republic, Kenya, and Israel, and later Canada.
- China was also accused of stashing supplies and sending defected masks and medical supplies to other countries.

- The Guardian, CBC, New York Times

Back to Calgary from China: the relief and isolation

Ziqiao Dong sits in her chair in her pajamas with her mother in the background.(Photo by Meng Wei/SAIT)



“It was actually not that much different for me,” says Ziqiao Dong, a freelance manga artist living in Calgary. “I could even dance and exercise at home,” she chuckles. “But the price of (Nintendo) Switch went up to 3,000 Chinese Yuan after the outbreak.”

Dong went back to China at the end of 2019 for one of her projects. She stayed until the Chinese New Year,

during which the coronavirus outbreak had Wuhan locked down and the 1.3 billion people all across China stayed home, desperately looking for anything to entertain, and to keep themselves sane, amidst this collective effort to calm down the situation.

“There is someone at every gate of the building complex, checking everyone going in and out, there’s even a time limit to how long you could be

out, and they check your temperature, too.”

Everyone in the family thinks that coming back to Calgary is much safer — there won’t be any more fear of living in a place where virus seems to be everywhere — but coming from a place like that, everyone cooperated to provide the support for her isolation.

“I brought a big bag, Qiao took off all

of her outerwear in the bathroom and put them into the bag, and we wiped all of the luggage with disinfecting wipes,” says Mei Hu, Dong’s mother. “We both wore masks ... I even covered the backseat with plastic and she sat at the back.”

“As the owner of a food service provider, I have to be careful to the extreme, and I think we actually accomplished that,” says Hu.

The fridge was filled before Dong landed, and Hu would come around sometimes to drop off more fresh groceries, but only leaving it by the door, like a "gang dealing", borrowing Hu's words.

"It was almost like any other normal day for me, doing my job or whatever I usually do, but I still feel a bit of the constraint after a couple of days," Dong says.

She didn't get out until the 14-day incubation period was over, the fresh air only came from the open windows and the balcony. When she did get out, she walked around plenty, including going to groceries herself.

"It felt very nice," then she laughed.

Dong's profession itself is a stay-at-home job, and with her personality on top of that, she had it much easier than a lot of people. "I'd make a schedule for myself, working in the morning, until the afternoon. I know when to work-out and when I can play some games. I'm used to it."

Ever since she got back to Calgary, she says that both she and mom feel more relaxed. Seeing no one wearing masks at the airport, she was relieved. Even though she still wore her mask all the way home, at least it proved that Calgary is still low risk, no one actually worries.

She says it is more of a responsibility for everyone around. "This is not something people can handle the consequences of."

When talking about the recent cases of Coronavirus in Alberta, both Dong and her mother soberly agreed with each other on how to deal with a possible new round of struggle. There's a bit of the fearlessness of someone who has seen a tragedy of some sort and knows how to prepare for it.

"We do what we can to prevent it, but if it really happens, then we can just allow it to happen naturally," Dong says.

"This is not something people can handle the consequences of."

"China is very strict and quick in response to control the situation. They did the right thing," says Hu. "Even though the Canadian government doesn't have to go to that extreme, at least, they should provide some credible and expert strategy, but we haven't seen any of it."

Among all the people in self-isolation, Dong and her family are, just as before, a part of a collective effort to reduce the spread of a global epidemic. She won't hesitate to go back to isolation again, although no fun, she won't hesitate.



Photo by James Fitzgerald/Unsplash



Photo by Meng Wei/SAIT

EPIDEMIC ESSENTIALS

we're giving you the list and where

- Disposable gloves
 - Hand sanitizers
 - Protective goggles
 - Masks
 - Alcohol wipes
-

Sold out? Substitute them with these:

- Pocket on the jacket
- Soap
- Glasses
- Scarf

Of course, the best way to prevent contracting or spreading the virus is to stay home and practice social distancing while we are outside. If you have to go out, we all have one or two of these items in the house.

"Masks can for sure prevent droplets. Make sure to choose one that you feel comfortable around your ear so that there's no need to adjust it very often."

Terry Pang, a medical supply store owner.



Photo by Meng Wei/SAIT

Join us on stage

BEST GALLERY OF THE CENTURY

MAY 28
FROM 20:30

Mars
Commons