

## A Stranger in a Foreign Land. An Engaged Citizen

-- In honor of Bradley Z. Zhao, recipient of the Canadian Senate 150th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

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When Chinese people find themselves abroad, especially in an unfamiliar French-speaking world, no matter how long they stay, there is always a sense of estrangement from their surroundings. Although they may live there, they are content to remain on the sidelines, not deeply engaging with the mainstream culture, let alone achieving remarkable success, helping all ethnic groups, and earning widespread acclaim.

Yet there is such a figure that has transcended the barriers and constraints of culture and language, assimilating into the local customs. With the spirit of an engaged scholar, this person has actively participated in the development of the educational field in their second homeland. After nearly 20 years of dedication, they have now received great praise and honors: Mr. Bradley Z. Zhao, the founder and principal of Elite College in Montreal, was awarded the "Senate of Canada 150th Anniversary Medal" in 2017, during the 150th anniversary of Canada's founding, for his "wholehearted dedication and outstanding contributions to his community." He became one of the 1000 recipients of this once-in-a-century award and the only Chinese representative from Quebec to receive this honor, leaving his name indelibly etched in the annals of Canadian history.



### **The Great Career of an Engaged Scholar**

Mr. Bradley Z. Zhao immigrated to Quebec in 1997. After obtaining a master's degree in computer science from Concordia University, he worked as a senior systems analyst and project manager at a local company for several years. In 2004, he founded Elite College and has been serving as its principal ever since. "For me, educating and nurturing students is a lifelong and essential endeavor that benefits generations to come. We, as Chinese immigrants in Quebec, should provide a place for Chinese children to learn their mother tongue, understand their cultural heritage, and explore the roots of their identity through cultural studies." As a scholar, Mr. Bradley Z. Zhao's vision is to establish an academy in the French-speaking province which helps children enter prestigious schools and shapes their futures, while also providing adults with skills for tomorrow. His goal is to help Chinese immigrants and people of all ethnicities thrive in Canada, spreading and promoting Chinese culture along the way.

Education has always been the most passionate and dedicated pursuit for Principal Zhao. As a former senior engineer at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, he has a strong enthusiasm and extraordinary confidence in the dissemination and sharing of knowledge. Coming to a foreign land, in an unfamiliar French-speaking society, can a Chinese person who speaks and thinks in Chinese succeed in education, a system that carries the culture, ideas, customs, and concepts of a specific region? "Running an educational institution is about enlightening students and benefitting future generations. No matter how difficult, we must dare to take the first step!" He doesn't just talk the talk! When the Chinese immigrant community was not yet well-established, Elite College was ahead of its time, preparing the first and subsequent waves of new immigrants for formal education.

A Chinese school can be run from a small workshop, or it can evolve into a large-scale, systematic institution. In the development of Elite College, Principal Zhao's wealth of knowledge and experience has played a crucial role. Academically, he holds a Bachelor's degree from Nanjing University, a Master's and Ph.D. (unfinished) from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and was a senior engineer and recipient of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Special Prize for Scientific and Technological Progress. He was also awarded the "Top Ten Sci-Tech and Education Prize in Beijing" and obtained a Master's degree in Computer Science from Concordia University in Canada. In terms of management experience, he has served as secretary, council member, and leader of several national associations, as well as a project manager and supervisor. As a new immigrant, he is driven by the ideal and the aspiration to integrate into the local culture as quickly as possible in a land that is someone else's. The rapid growth of Elite College can be attributed to these factors.



## 成就与荣誉:

- 2012和2013年10月海外华文教育·华校校董华夏行
- 2010年6月受到访加的胡锦涛主席的接见邀请
- 2009年入选四月期“华夏财富”杂志封面人物
- 2009年4月中国海外中青年代表人士
- 第四届加拿大杰出华商奖 创业精神奖 2009
- 2003年12月作为华人华侨代表受到温家宝总理的接见
- 1999年04月作为华人华侨代表受到朱熔基总理的接见
- 1996年获得中国科学技术发展基金会北京青年科技教育奖(北京科技教育“十佳”)
- 1995年获得中国科学院科技进步特等奖
- 出版著作"Research on Land Information Systems" 1993 被美国国会图书馆收藏 call number: HD996.Z7 R47 1993

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# 趙振家 把教育當事業做

## 體會華裔移民「語言還是個痛」 創立英才學院 培育第二代立足加拿大

記者馬健生 多倫多報導

由於體會華裔移民「語言還是個痛」，於1997年移民滿地可的趙振家，2004年在滿地可創辦英才學院，目的就是要讓移民第二代能立足於加拿大。

學院創立之初，僅有2、3位教師與幾十位學生，以學習法語為主，五年之內，已有30多位教師，近400位學生，並開辦10多項學習項目，校內雖然90%均為華裔學生，但也有伊朗、摩洛哥、羅馬尼亞等10多個族裔的學生。擔任英才學院院長的趙振家認為，要把教育當事業而非生意。

趙振家20日晚，舉增加拿大中華商會所頒發的「第四屆加拿大傑出華裔創業精神獎」，從滿地可趕赴多倫多受獎的他22日受訪時強調，自己的孩子在本地長大，學習與受教育的感覺強烈，再加上自己過去的管理經驗，讓他投身為移民第二代立足本地的決心。

移民前，趙振家在北大已是教授，並曾以中國科技專家之名受邀赴非洲博茨瓦納進行土地規劃與農業工作；移民後，又取得電腦信息碩士，並於當地大型製藥公司擔任專業經理；父母均為中醫師，自己也有中醫及推拿證照，但趙振家卻把精力投注在移民第二代，以過去的管理經驗創辦英才學院。

這其中主要原因，趙振家說，由於曾在僑社服務過，深諳魁北克省的5萬華人移民的第一代，不論法語或英語，語言仍是主要障礙，他深諳移民第二代絕不能如此。

趙振家提及2004年創辦英才學院之地，由於對市場未盡熟悉，因此也有過「緊縮期」，期間曾備受壓力，但他堅持親臨面試，聽取來自法國或法國風貌地的師資，並以學生反應作為是否聘用教師的重要依據；趙振家「學校就是我家」的觀念；與親人想關係；所有學生學習情況都在「趙校長的眼中」，讓家長了解如何協助孩子學習，讓英才學院在建校之外，在滿地可也已開設一所分校。

獲得傑出學業的創業精神獎，從事的教育事業的趙振家，作為「另類華裔」，他說他從不把教育當事業當生意做。對於新移民，他的建議是「有志者事竟成，想做的事就要認真做下去，認定方向給實走，任何事一定有困難，但學有毅力。」




趙振家（左）表示，自己的一雙兒女（圖為趙振家全家福）在本地長大，感同身受，讓他決心投身移民第二代教育。（圖：趙振家提供）

趙振家（中，鼓掌者）在滿地可創辦英才學院，就是要讓移民第二代能立足加拿大。（圖：趙振家提供）

### Building a bridge between Chinese parents and French-language schools through education

Initially, Elite College primarily targeted Chinese students. In addition to offering Chinese language courses, various ethics, sports, and arts programs aimed at enhancing the overall quality of education were continuously introduced to improve students' academic performance and enrich their extracurricular lives. The annual summer camp served as a concentrated display of comprehensive education. Although attracting the majority of the Chinese community in a short period of time can be considered a notable achievement, Mr. Zhao, with his educational acumen, soon noticed a significant communication gap and disconnect between families and schools in Quebec. Most Chinese parents did not understand French and were unclear about what their children were learning at school, whether homework was assigned, and what type of homework it was. They could not even comprehend teacher feedback or parent letters, let alone help their children with their studies. Consequently, Elite College took the initiative to bridge this communication gap between families and schools. Children could receive additional tutoring in French and mathematics, and the school was responsible for reporting students' academic progress to parents, enabling them to understand their children's academic achievements or difficulties. Elite College also translated and explained the operation of the Quebec education system to parents, including the characteristics of each elementary and secondary school, the teaching goals in each school year, graduation and examination systems, as well as provided various competition and career guidance support, and school selection advice and analysis.

Nearly 20 years have passed since Elite College was established. Looking back, it has witnessed one group of parents and children after another entering its gates with hopeful anticipation, and leaving with a sense of fulfillment. For most Chinese immigrants in Quebec, Elite College is not just a place for extracurricular tutoring; it is also a trusted and reliable institution where parents invest in their children's education with peace of mind. With Elite College, parents can overcome the language barrier and have a clear understanding of their children's academic progress, providing them with a sense of security. The students who have benefited from Elite College have flourished academically, forming lifelong friendships with their classmates, thus turning their time at Elite into cherished memories.



### **Breaking down barriers and helping the entire Francophone community.**

The characteristics of an enterprise or institution ultimately reflect the personality of its leader. Mr. Zhao, the principal of Elite College, has demonstrated a curiosity for exploration of the Francophone culture, a love for this second homeland, and a deep-seated affection for Canada's multiculturalism. His expanding horizons and ambitions are no longer confined to the Chinese community. Recognizing that we are not just immigrants, but also Canadians and Quebecers, Elite College aims to transcend ethnic boundaries and become the ideal place for children of all backgrounds to obtain knowledge and tutoring outside of school. Ten years after its founding, Elite College enrolled over a thousand students annually from Montreal and various regions of Quebec, representing almost all ethnic groups. This diversity has fostered a unique multicultural learning environment where students from other ethnicities, who once envied the academic achievements of Chinese students, now benefit from quality teaching and tutoring, as well as opportunities to learn about Chinese culture and engage in social activities during summer camps. As Elite College's educational scale continues to expand, it has become a comprehensive teaching base for various functions: a national and provincial mathematics competition training base and examination center, a training base for French writing and reading competitions, a preparatory training ground for secondary entrance exams, an international student language center, and even student apartments. With each batch of outstanding students nurtured by Elite College excelling in various subjects across schools, its excellent reputation has gradually spread to the local mainstream and attracted the curiosity and attention of local media. In May 2014, journalists from La Presse, Quebec's largest French-language newspaper, visited Elite College to investigate the "magic" behind its students' rapid academic progress and increasing admission rates to prestigious schools. Their report, published on the front page of La Presse on July 8, 2014, further enhanced Elite College's reputation in the local community and beyond. Mr. Zhao's broad-mindedness and vision have transformed Elite College from a Chinese language tutoring school into a comprehensive educational institution with three campuses serving students from all corners of Quebec and from all ethnic backgrounds.

## 法文报纸 LaPresse 采访英才学院



## 法文电视台 “ASTRAL MEDIA CANAL D” 采访英才学院



No. d'élèves du Collège Élite acceptés par les écoles secondaires de renommée du Québec, par année  
Number of Elite College students accepted by the top secondary schools in Quebec, by year  
历年英才学院学生考入一流中学的人数

Année Year 年	2004	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Admission	12	47	67	144	169	232	227	260	308	310	400+	400+	500+	600+	650+

### Les élèves du Collège Élite ont eu de grands succès en 2018 !

Elite College students have achieved great success in the Secondary entry exams in 2018!

2018英才学院中考考生又创辉煌！650多位英才学生考取一流中学

**Montreal:** 113 students are accepted by Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, 28 by L'école internationale de Montréal, 112 by Jean-Eudes, 68 by St-Nom-de-Marie, 73 by Regina-Assumpta and 85 by Collège Notre-Dame du Sacré-Coeur.

**West Island:** 55 students are accepted by Collège internationale St-Louis, 97 by Collège Sainte-Anne de Lachine, 23 by Collège Charlemagne, 40 by Collège Beaubois. **South Shore:** 83 students are accepted by Jean-de-la-Mennais, 84 by Collège Durocher and 64 by École Internationale Lucille Teasdale.

### Nombre d'élèves du Collège Élite acceptés par le Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf

Number of Elite College students accepted by College Jean-de-Brébeuf

历年英才学院学生考取魁省450多所中学排名第一的BREBEUF人数

截止到2019年6月



Year	2004	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	2012	13	14	15	16	18
total places	144 boys	144	144	144	144	180*	144	144	144 boys +72 girls	180+ 72	180 +72	144 +72	144 +72	144 +72
accept Elites	2	7	11	22	36	44	44	43	28 +31	40 +19	46 +30	40 +27	35 +43	62 +51
rate %	1.4	4.8	7.6	15	25	24.	30.5	29.8	27.3	23.5	30.2	31.0	36	52.3



2014魁省法语节作文赛, 英才学生表现优异, 中考班学生几乎囊括少年组所有奖牌



2019-2020AQJM

初赛英才获奖学生证书  
Les Certificas de quart de finale gagnants du Collège élite  
Elite College quarter final winners certificates

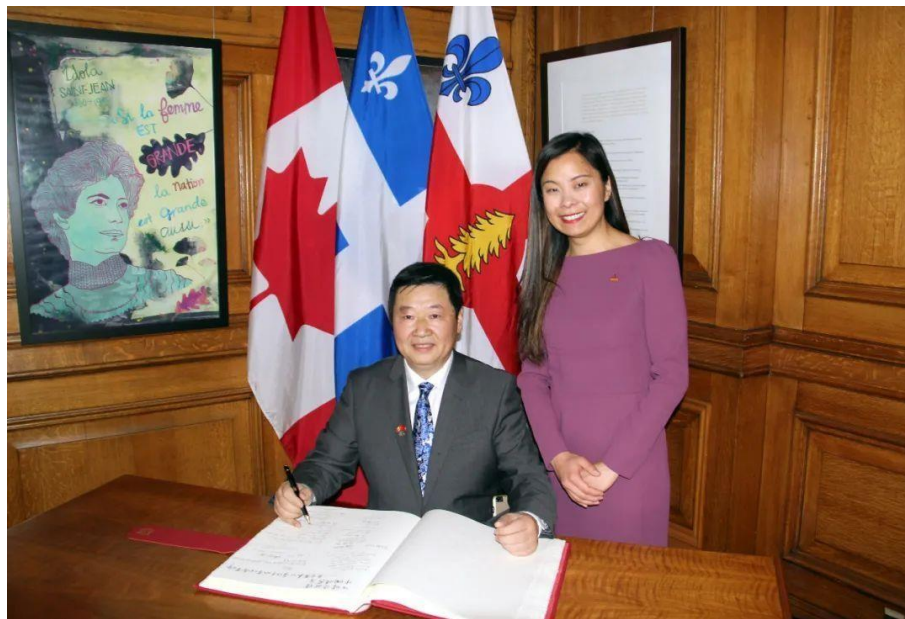
Actively engaged in the growth of his new homeland, setting an example for Chinese immigrants

Overseas, the typical image of Chinese immigrants is quiet hard workers, model citizens aiming for perfection, and speaking little as silence is golden.

The French term "intellectuel engagé" translates to a committed or engaged intellectual. "In addition to the primary role of teaching and educating, an ambitious and responsible scholar must not forget to be a citizen, a member of society, actively involved in public affairs, and participating in community building, which is one's duty and obligation." Recognizing the value and role of Elite College, Mr. Zhao fully utilizes his broad platform. He actively organizes students to participate in various federal and provincial large-scale social activities, bringing hundreds of Elite College students social awareness, nurturing their spirit of participation and dedication. At the same time, he adds color to the vibrant palette of the city! Over the years, during Quebec and Canada Day celebrations and other major events, the cheerful presence and smiles of the Elite College squad can often be seen. In the 2017 celebrations of Canada's 150th anniversary, Principal Zhao expanded Elite's horizons beyond Quebec, across Canada, organizing a drum celebration event that spanned the entire country from east to west.



In addition to his role as principal of Elite College, Mr. Zhao holds key positions in multiple Quebec Chinese organizations. Leveraging these platforms and influential positions, through time, experience, and practical actions, he expresses the voices of the Chinese community and conveys back information from the general public, serving as a communication bridge representing the Chinese community. As a result, this actively engaged individual gradually gained attention and recognition from the local community, evidenced by a series of honors and awards: invited as an outstanding citizen to sign the Golden Book of the City of Montreal; awarded the Special Contribution Award for French Promotion at the Quebec French Culture Festival; honored with an award for Canadian Chinese entrepreneurs... His continuous dedication and contributions have led Principal Zhao from Montreal to Quebec, ultimately reaching the national level, where he is awarded this commemorative medal, a symbol of the highest honor!



"The impact of education on children knows no bounds. As an engaged citizen, I am committed to contributing to Quebec, my new home, through education, thus realizing my Canadian dream."





COLLÈGE ELITE  
ELITE COLLEGE  
英才學院

*Strengthen self without stopping,  
and hold world with virtue.*

自強不息 厚德載物