



**GIFTING BACK  
TO CANADIAN  
COMMUNITIES**

May 7th, 2016

Trung Lu  
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To The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada,

Thirty-seven years ago, our family came to Canada as refugees with absolutely nothing in our pockets. Our parents gave everything up to escape the communist takeover in their homeland of Saigon, Vietnam. We survived a miraculous boat journey while at least half a million others perished at sea, succumbing to piracy, sickness or the unfriendly waters.

Canada reached out and gave us a lifeline. She rescued us, and gave us everything we needed to begin our new lives in a small town (Moosomin, Saskatchewan) including an extremely caring sponsor family, the Slugoskis. We eventually moved to Vancouver where we have lived for the past thirty-one years.

Our father worked tirelessly, at times holding several jobs just to make ends meet. Back home, he had been a police officer and a very talented cook, but he could only secure janitorial work in the new country. Our mother stayed home to raise four rambunctious boys.

Growing up, organized sports/activities was another lifeline for my brothers and I. Sports disciplined us, kept us healthy, and taught us many valuable life skills. Despite financial barriers, my brothers and I played our hearts out in a wide range of sports. This was only made possible because of the fundraising efforts by our coaches and schools.

We now have fulfilling lives and we are building our own "Canadian Dreams." We work proudly in the following areas: Financial Services, Health Care, Law Enforcement and Telecommunications. We also volunteer regularly within our communities.

Now we are on another journey to gift back to the country that gave us so much because we want to show our heartfelt gratitude. We decided to start a community project called "BOXX Play" and our tag line is: Gifting back to Canadian Communities!

It all started in the spring of 2013, after another successful hockey pool season. We debated what to do with the prize money. Rather than spend it on ourselves, we decided that we should give back to the community instead. It had to be something to do with youth sports and underprivileged kids because that is what resonated with us.

[www.boxxplay.ca](http://www.boxxplay.ca)

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Every hockey season, we set out to join hockey pools all across Canada, with a focus on supporting youth sports and charity hockey pool fundraisers. We donate all winnings back to the host organization if they are a youth sports team, and if they are not, we donate the winnings to the respective provincial KidSport chapter. KidSport is a national not-for-profit organization that provides financial assistance to underprivileged kids for registration fees and equipment for organized sports.

We're in the early stages of BOXX Play, but we're really excited about the impact that our project is already having in helping more kids play. From our entries, we have boosted over twenty youth sports team and charity hockey pool fundraisers, won over 10 hockey pools, and donated several thousand dollars of winnings to KidSport.

Fast forward to 2017... a once in a lifetime opportunity to further express our gratitude to the Government of Canada is right around the corner. As we head into the 2016-2017 NHL regular season this fall, Canadians everywhere are also getting ready to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation! In recognition of this extraordinary event, we have added a special component to our developing community project. We are writing to NHL players and asking them to autograph our hockey cards. As we champion for a healthier and more active nation, we will recognize and reward kids who have made the effort to become more active with an autograph from our Canada 150 collection.

As very proud citizens of this country, our dream is to bring our parents to Ottawa in 2017 where we can personally express our gratitude to the Government of Canada for rescuing us 37 years ago and providing everything we needed to become positive contributing members to Canadian society. My brothers and I also want to show our appreciation for the sacrifices our parents made so that we could have a better life and brighter future here in Canada. It would be an honour for our family to have the opportunity to meet you and thank you in person, Prime Minister Trudeau!

Sincerely,

Trung Lu  
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