

**From:** Parlee Law Offices  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 10:00 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed Glass Factory

The media reports that the Chinese company Xinyi is proposing to build a glass factory in the City of Stratford and I wish to address the issues arising from this proposal.

I wish to start out by saying that we ought not to conflate the population and people of China with the Government of China or the Chinese communist party (CCP) and Government policies. So what is the connection between the Chinese company Xinyi – the proponent of the glass factory and the people’s Republic of China Government and the CCP? The Chinese Government passed the National Intelligence Act which requires all Chinese organizations and companies to provide access, cooperation and support for Beijing’s intelligence – gathering activities. Moreover, the CCP has a Party committee which is involved in the management of China based and owned corporations with a view to ensuring that the activities of the corporation are consistent with and support the best interests of the Nation of China. Because the CCP is embedded in and arguably can control Xinyi, any activity of Xinyi which gives rise to a divergence between the political or financial interests of China versus Canada will be resolved by Xinyi in favour of China.

The Chinese Government is engaged in a large scale systemic oppression (if it is not genocide) of millions of people, in particular the Uyghurs, Tibetans and ethnic Muslim populations. The Chinese Government has resurrected “re-education camps” for the Uyghurs and Tibetans.

The CCP has punished any opponents to its policies by hostage diplomacy, and punitive tariffs with Australia and Canada among its victims. The Chinese Government has jailed for almost 2 years without any trial or hearing, Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor. The Chinese Government has imposed unjustified punitive tariffs on Canadian pork, canola and lobster (among other Canadian products) and has simply banned the sale of other Canadian products in China.

The House of Commons recently passed a motion requiring our Government to develop a plan to combat China’s surveillance and intimidation of Chinese Canadians in Canada and their families in China.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) warns that this Chinese state sponsored harassment in Canada in part, is part of a global campaign of intimidation and harassment threatens Canada’s sovereignty and the safety of Canadians. CSIS has identified China and Russia as being the two largest security threats to Canada and its sovereignty.

The Chinese Government in 2013 implemented the Belt and Road initiative which is one of the largest infrastructure and investment projects in history covering more than 68 countries and 65% of the world’s population. The B and R initiative extends the Chinese Government’s financial and economic influence worldwide. Do we want to give the CCP a foot hold in Canada by allowing the construction of this glass factory? China is able to mass produce low cost products because it does not have any regard for standards relating to the environment and labour laws.

The glass plant proposed by Xinyi will operate 24/7 for at least 12 years and will consume about 1/3 as much water as the entire City of Stratford consumes. The City of Stratford has enough water. Until it doesn’t.

There are short term temptations to allow the construction of the glass factory, the primary one being the increase in the tax revenue to the City of Stratford. But at what cost? The construction plans include a 48,300 square foot, self-contained apartments for workers at the plant. A reasonable conclusion is that Xinyi

will bring its own workers to the site and house them. There is unlikely to be large-scale employment of local workers and the wages of imported employees are unlikely to be part of the local economy.

I strongly urge Stratford City Council to follow the advice given by CSIS, the House of Commons and the example given by other Ontario municipalities in declining to permit the establishment of the glass plant proposed by the Chinese company Xinyi.

Yours very truly,

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