



National Association of Japanese Canadians

**2008 AGM National Association of Japanese Canadians  
Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre  
October 25 & 26, 2008**

**Saturday, October 25, 2008**

**Called to order:** 9:05 am  
**Opening Remarks:** President Grace Thomson, AGM Chair  
**Welcome and Announcements:** Geoffrey Miki, President Manitoba JCCA

**Roll Call: National Executive Board**

President: Grace Eiko Thomson  
Vice President: Charlotte Chiba  
Secretary: Terumi Kuwada  
Treasurer: Angela Foreman  
Directors: Joanne Planidin  
Masa Kagami  
Pamela Sugiman (absent)  
Past President: Henry Kojima

AGM Recording Secretary: Carol Matsumoto

**Member Delegates:**

Toronto Chapter of NAJC: Bill Kobayashi  
Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association: Geoffrey Miki,  
Alternate: Stacey Matsumoto  
Individual Member: Keiko Miki  
Kamloops & Area Chapter of NAJC: George Uyeda  
Alternate: Debbie Cairns  
Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area: Kimie Sudo  
Vernon Japanese Cultural Society: Aubrey Comley  
Lakehead Japanese Cultural Association: Steven Seller  
Calgary Japanese Community Association: Tom Uyeno  
Alternate: Mai Nagao  
Ottawa Japanese Community Association: Kuniyo Yamamoto  
Edmonton Japanese Community Association: Cathy Tennant  
Alternate: Sanae Ohki  
Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian  
Citizens' Association (GVJCCA): Ron Nishimura  
Alternate: April Shimizu

**Observers and Guests:**

Greater Vancouver JCCA: Tosh Kitagawa  
Calgary JCA: Kevin Okabe

**Approval of 2008 AGM Agenda:**

Motion to accept the agenda as written in the AGM booklet

Moved by: Joanne Planidin – NEB

Seconded by: Steven Seller – Lakehead Carried



## National Association of Japanese Canadians

### **Approval of the 2007 AGM Minutes:**

#### **Motion to accept the minutes of the 2007 NAJC AGM as printed in the AGM booklet**

Moved by: Terumi Kuwada - NEB

Seconded by: Geoffrey Miki - Manitoba

Carried

Clarification: Joanne Planidin was the Recording Secretary and Terumi Kuwada was Secretary of NEB.

### **Treasurer's Report:** Angela Foreman

- 1 Les Miyazawa of Runchey Miyazawa Abbott, based in Winnipeg, gave a presentation on the audited statements to March 31, 2008. He explained the different procedure this year for Chartered Accountants to follow that required financial assets and liabilities be recognized at fair value and classified. He recommended that the NAJC review investments to consider how to make adjustments due to diminishing markets.
- 2 The Treasurer's written report as on page 28 in the AGM booklet.
- 3 Recruiting for 2009 Audit Committee and Finance Committee.

#### **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented**

Moved by: Angela Foreman – NEB Treasurer

Seconded by: Aubrey Comley – Vernon

Carried

### **Motion to approve the 2008 Audited Statement:**

Moved by: George Uyeda – Kamloops

Seconded by: Masa Kagami- NEB

Carried

**Appointment of 2009 Auditor:** deferred until tomorrow.

### **Appointment of legal firm:**

Motion to appoint Tapper Cuddy LLP as legal counsel for the 2008-09 term

Moved by: Henry Kojima- NEB

Seconded by: George Uyeda – Kamloops

Carried

### **NEB Members' Reports**

- President Grace Eiko Thomson – as written on pages 18 & 19 of the AGM booklet
- Vice-President Charlotte Chiba/Human Rights Committee Chair - pages 20-27 of the AGM booklet
  - 1 Representatives of NAJC must be representing the NAJC and not the local organization or oneself.
  - 2 Information must be accurate.
  - 3 Facts are important.
  - 4 Recommendations must be made
- Treasurer Angela Foreman – as presented previously
- Acting Secretary/Community Development Chair – Terumi Kuwada pages 30-32 of the AGM booklet
  - 1 Thank you to John Greenaway, web page master, and to Cathy.
  - 2 Development of committee – ideas and projects and establish guidelines for use of ideas and initiatives.



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- Director Joanne Planidin – as written on pages 33-34 of the AGM booklet
- Director Masa Kagami – as written on pages 35-36 of the AGM booklet
- Past President Henry Kojima – as written on page 37 of the AGM booklet

### **Motion to approve all NEB members' reports**

Moved by: Joanne Planidin - NEB

Seconded by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Carried

### **Other Reports**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Redress Celebration – Grace Eiko Thomson
  - 1 It was a success with 1000 people attending, including students from Simon Fraser and UBC as well as delegates and visitors from across Canada. There was a surplus left.
- NAJC Executive Director Proposal – Henry Kojima
  - 1 Need of administrative assistance, leadership role, not clerical
  - 2 How are you going to pay for this position? What amount?

**Moved that an Executive Director position be created, reporting to the President the National Executive Board; responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission, vision, goals and objectives. The successful candidate to be instated at the 2012 AGM.**

Moved by: George Uyeda – Kamloops

Seconded by: Keiko Miki – Individual Member

- Discussion –
- 1 Data should be collected on possible cost
  - 2 Separate the clerical and executive director job
  - 3 Possibly fundraise for own salary
  - 4 Reports to the Board, not only to the President as Board as a whole is responsible for issues

**Amendment – That the successful candidate to be instated 'by' the 2012 AGM.**

Moved by: Aubrey Comley – Vernon

Seconded by: George Uyeda – Kamloops

3 against

Carried

**Amendment – That the line “ The successful candidate to be instated by the 2012 AGM.” be deleted.**

Moved by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Seconded by: Geoff Miki – Manitoba

3 against

Carried

**Motion as amended – That an Executive Director position be created, reporting to the President and the National Executive Board; responsible for the organization's consistent achievement of its mission, vision, goals and objectives.**

1 abstention

Carried



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- Japanese Canadian War memorial Committee – NAJC is invited to the November 11<sup>th</sup> event
- NAJC and Cityscape Residence Corporation
  - 1 18 months of discussion
  - 2 Art Miki, Henry Kojima and Lucy Yamashita met with Cityscape Corporation. Cityscape representatives indicated that NAJC owes \$108,000. NAJC is willing to pay what is owed, but wants the amount to be documented/verified.
  - 3 There have been a number of property managers. NAJC has asked in the past what we owe. There are letters on file requesting that an amount be invoiced so that NAJC can pay the bill. No invoices were received after 1998.
  - 4 NAJC has a pre-paid lease until 2011. A settlement should be negotiated. Condition of the settlement might be to leave the current office.
- Canadian War Museum JC Panel 'Forced Relocation' – see report on pages 51-52
- Canadian Race Relations Foundation – see report on pages 53-54
- Japanese Canadian Historic Site Commemoration – see report on page 55
- Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and Vancouver Asahi Baseball Team – wording of Asahi plaque and location – see report on page 56
- Japanese Government's Invitation Program to Japanese Canadians to visit Japan (September 16, 2008) – see report page on 57 – met with Lucy Yamashita as well as people from Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver

### **Awards and Scholarships**

- Canadian Japanese Mennonite Scholarship – see report on page 58
- Endowment Fund Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 Recipients – see report on pages 60-61 – points to ponder
  - 1 Should the committee meet only once a year?
  - 2 Could there be a telephone conference?

**Lunch and Recognition** 12:00 – 13:30 Recognition of departing NEB members

Discussion on Executive Director Position

- 1 Bring to membership for the main budget – budget and timeline are needed
- 2 Who is directing the process – NEB/membership?
- 3 When will NEB report?

**Moved that the NEB set up a committee to set an implementation process for hiring an executive director and that the committee report to the membership before the 2009 AGM.**

Moved by: Keiko Miki – Individual Member

Seconded by: Bill Kobayashi – Toronto 1 abstention Carried

**Moved that the reports be accepted.**

Moved by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Seconded by: Aubrey Comley – Vernon Carried



## National Association of Japanese Canadians

### Member Organization Reports

- Calgary – report on pages 63-64 - There was a joint meeting where a collective vision was discussed. What are the needs of the community?
- Edmonton – report on pages 65-66 – During the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there were small group discussions. Future direction- Human rights advocacy. Development of the community in Edmonton.
- Toronto – report on pages 67-73 – Bill Kobayashi and Sid Ikeda, JCC chairs 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – remembered people who have passed away such as Roger Obata and Wes Fujiwara - Ann's speech on the principal campaign
- Vancouver – report on pages 74-81 – Human Rights report – revision
- Hamilton – report on pages 82-83
- Kamloops – report on pages 84-84 – George Uyeda thanked JC's across Canada for their support. Possession will be at the end of the month –Everyone should check to see how much insurance coverage you have for contents.
- Lakehead – report on page 86 – 20<sup>th</sup> was recognition of Redress rather than celebration
- Manitoba – report on pages 87-88
- Lethbridge – report on pages 89-90
- Vernon – report on page 91
- Ottawa – report was handed out separately. 192 members and with their families about 500 members. Mochi Tsuki is the biggest event of the year. Writing reports for the Embassy in Japanese – crime reports. JET program. Natsumatsuri. Did not receive minutes.

#### **Moved to accept the community reports.**

Moved by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Seconded by : Kuniyo Yamamoto - Ottawa

Carried

### Break

#### **Community Development - Members' Discussion**

- Health status of NAJC chapters
- What is vital
- Resources
- Ways to get this done

### Adjournment for the day

**Sunday, October 26, 2008**

**Called to order : 9:15 a.m.**

#### **2009-2010 Budget**

- Healing Trauma workshop and HR meeting
- HR 2009-2010 budget is not in the booklet
- National workshop – Difficulty - issues may arise that are not anticipated
- There were teleconferences to cut down on expenses
- 2008-2009 workshop will be put into 2009-2010 budget
- Endowment fund – past year's surpluses are available



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### **Moved that the NAJC 2009-2010 budget be accepted as published and presented.**

Moved by: Angela Foreman – NEB

Seconded by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Carried

### **Moved that the auditors Runchey Miyazawa Abbott be appointed for 2009.**

Moved by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Seconded by: Aubrey Comley – Vernon

Carried

### **Elections Committee** – Keiko Miki presented on behalf of the committee

- It is important that names be submitted from member organizations.
- Ask member organizations to be more involved
- New board can appoint members
- Constitution was checked regarding electing vs. appointing a treasurer since there is no treasurer on the presented slate –
  - President – Terumi Kuwada
  - Vice President – Masa Kagami
  - Secretary – Angela Foreman
  - Directors – Takashi Ohki, Steven Seller, Pamela Sugiman
  - Endowment Fund Committee – Jeff Chiba Stearns, Karlau Uyeda

### **Moved that the slate be accepted as presented.**

Moved by: Keiko Miki – Individual Member

Seconded by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Carried

Treasurer – Angela has volunteered to remain as treasurer until one is appointed.

Suggestion that committee members should be reappointed.

Both Terumi Kuwada and Masa Kagami thanked everyone for the support and have asked for everyone's help this coming term. Grace stressed the importance of the NAJC. She thanked the MJCCA, MJCCC and Winnipeg NAJC personnel.

Tosh Kitagawa, a member of the Vancouver JCCA Human Rights Committee spoke concerning the Land Titles Act - found a clause in the BC one which said Asians were not allowed to be sold land. All should check the covenants in their own provinces Section 222 of the Land Titles Act.

### **Approval of 2009 AGM location**

#### **Moved that Vancouver be the site of the 2009 AGM.**

Moved by: Ron Nishimura - Vancouver

Seconded by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Carried

Discussions about community development and human rights continued.

### **Moved that the 2008 NAJC AGM be adjourned.**

Moved by: Aubrey Comley - Vernon

Seconded by: Steven Seller – Lakehead

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m