



**2016 AGM National Association of Japanese Canadians  
September 9, 2016  
Sheraton Eau Claire Hotel  
Calgary, Alberta**

Meeting called to order 2:10 PM

**Welcome by Joanne Planidin, President CJCA.**

Joanne Planidin welcomed the delegates, alternates and observers, and the National Executive Board to the NAJC AGM in Calgary, Alberta.

**Opening Remarks by President Bev Ohashi, AGM Chair**

Opening remarks from Bev Ohashi. The NEB has been focusing on accountability, transparency, and moving forward. In 2014 the NEB created the Strategic Plan. Over the past two years, the Strategic plan of the NEB developed into the Tactical Plan, includes proposed actions. The actions of the tactical plan, were developed within the financial budget of the NAJC.

Examples of progress, was undertaking a redevelopment of the NAJC website, which began in 2014.

Viewership has increase in 2014 from 3422 views per month, 2015 – 6,565 views per month, 2016 8,446 views per month. One objective of the Strategic plan was to create a national presence, and the new website, moves closer to achieving this objective.

The NEB has strived to increase communication with the NAJC through National Council Meetings, and Community Forums.

Bev wishes to thank the members of the National Executive Board for their dedication and commitment, and also to thank Tracey Suzuki, who was responsible for putting together the NAJC Booklet.

Appointment of Jim Suzuki as Recording Secretary

Appointment of Steve Seller, as Rules of Order Chair for the meeting.

**Roll Call:**

**National Executive Board Members**

President	Bev Ohashi
Vice President	Tosh Kitagawa
Secretary	Susan Matsumoto
Treasurer	Kevin Okabe
Director	Lillian Nakamura Maguire
Director	Lisa Uyeda
Director	Lisa Schoenhofer
Director	Susanne Tabata
Director	Valerie Hoshizaki-Nordin
Executive Director	Ken Noma
National Administrator	Jim Suzuki

**NAJC Member Delegates**

Calgary Japanese Community Association	Joanne Terakita Planidin
Alternate	Roger Teshima
Calgary Community and Seniors Foundation	Shirley Shigematsu
Edmonton Japanese Community Association	David Mitsui
Alternate	Sanae Oki
Hamilton Chapter of the NAJC	Patti Simpson
Kamloops Japanese Canadian Association	George Uyeda
Alternate	Karlae Uyeda
Lakehead Japanese Cultural Association	Jane Eddington
Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge & Area	David Tanaka
Alternate	George Takashima
Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba	Art Miki
Alternate	Ken Teramura
Ottawa Japanese Community Association	Sachiko Okuda
Regina Japanese Canadian Club	Andre Boutin-Maloney
Greater Toronto Chapter of the NAJC	Michiko Yano Shuttleworth
Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens` Association	Lorene Oikawa
Victoria Nikkei Cultural Association	Tsugio Kurushima
Japanese Canadian Association of Yukon	Fumi Torigai
Nikkei National Museum	Sherri Kajiwara

**Individual Members**

Keiko Miki  
Kim Uyeda Kai  
Vivian Ryngestadt  
Naomi Katsumi

**Motion (#1) To accept the 2016 Agenda of the AGM as printed in the AGM Booklet**

Moved: Greater Vancouver JCCA -Lorene Oikawa  
Seconded: Kamloops - George Uyeda  
Carried

**Motion (#2) To accept the minutes of the April 26,2016 National Council Meeting as printed in the AGM Booklet**

Moved: Manitoba - Art Miki  
Seconded: Alberta - David Mitsui  
Carried

**Treasurer's Report**

**Motion (#3) to accept the Treasurer's Report, excluding the 2017-18 Budget.**

Moved Hamilton - Patti Simpson  
Seconded: Calgary Seniors - Shirley Shigematsu  
Carried

Kevin Okabe provide the unaudited Financial statement for the period ending Mar 31, 2016

**Motion (#4) to accept the Unaudited Financial Report as presented.**

Moved: Calgary - Joanne Planidin  
Moved: Kamloops - George Uyeda  
Carried

**Motion (#5) to appoint the auditor of Runchey Miyazawa Abbott for the 2016-17 year.**

Moved Edmonton - David Mitsui  
Seconded Nikkei Museum - Sherri Kajiwara  
Carried

**Motion (#6) to appoint the auditor of Booth Dennehy LLP as legal counsel for the 2016-17 year.**

Moved: Greater Vancouver JCCA -Lorene Oikawa  
Seconded: Hamilton - Patti Simpson

**NEB Reports, Member organization reports and Announcements**

Susan Matsumoto introduced Sachiko Okuda, Ottawa Chapter

Sachiko Okuda – Ottawa Chapter

Announcement:

Sachiko reports the NAJC AGM will be held in Ottawa, Friday September 22, 2017 to Sunday September 24, 2017. The Venue will be the **Canadian Museum of History**. The date September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the anniversary of Redress, and the year 2017, also mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Interment.

Announcement from Maryka Omatsu (as presented by Susanne Tabata)

**VANCOUVER REPORT**

The JC Community Building project (JCCB) was formed several years ago, as an offshoot from the Powell Street Festival, which celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. The JCCB's vision is to have a WWII expropriated property in the Powell St. neighbourhood (formerly Japantown) returned by the City of Vancouver to the JC community. In 1942, Vancouver played a dark role in encouraging the forced sales and providing a key rationale for the policy. In January 1943, the Custodian of Enemy Property sold 112 properties belonging to JCs in the Powell St. area. One stated goal was to prevent JCs from ever returning to Vancouver.

Once reacquired, the JC community will own and operate the centre. Several possible sites have been identified, and informal discussions have begun with members of the JC community, local groups in and around Powell St., City planners and politicians. A primary aim of the building will be to provide a link with the original Japantown, so that memory of it and of the war-time expulsions will be retained. Exact functions of the building are yet to be determined and will depend in part on the physical dimensions and design of the building. It is currently envisaged that in addition to specifically Japanese-Canadian uses – cultural facilities, a meeting place, and so on – the building will provide services for local residents of the area perhaps including housing. It will be a concrete reminder of our history and a locus in Vancouver for our community

**Constitution and Resolutions Committee Report**

Lillian Nakamura Maguire

**Motion (#7) to Amend the By-laws:**

**Amendment #2016-01**

Change the wording “Executive Board” to “National Executive Board” in the following paragraphs (Numbered sections in bylaws):

4	5	7.3.2	8.1.5	9.1	11.1
13.2	14.5	14.6.1	15.3(e)	15.5	16
16.1.2	16.1.4	16.3.3	16.3.5	16.3.7	16.4.1
17.1	17.2	20.3	22.1	22.2	22.3
23.2	23.3	23.6	23.7	24.2.2	24.3.2
24.5.5	24.6.4	24.6.8	24.8.1	24.9.1	25.2(d)

**Amendment #2016-02**

Change the wording “Pass a motion a the...” to “Pass a motion at the”

Original paragraph

7.1.1.2(d) Pass a motion a the Organization’s AGM in support of the NAJC;

Proposed paragraph

7.1.1.2(d) Pass a motion at the Organization’s AGM in support of the NAJC;

**Amendment #2016-03**

Change the wording from:

Original paragraph

20.12.3. To be verified and approved, Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting motions shall require:

- (a) One (1) Individual or Member Organization mover;
- (b) One (1) Individual or Member Organization seconder; and,

Proposed paragraph

20.12.3. To be verified and approved, Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting motions shall require:

- (a) One (1) Individual or Member Organization or Supporting Member Organization mover;
- (b) One (1) Individual or Member Organization or Supporting Member Organization seconder; and,

**Amendment #2016-04**

Change the wording from:

Original paragraph

20.12.3(c) Approval by the NAJC Constitution and Resolutions Committee in accordance with section 24.7 of the bylaws.

Proposed paragraph

20.12.3(c) Approval by the NAJC Constitution and Resolutions Committee in accordance with section 24.8 of the bylaws.

**Amendment #2016-05**

Change the wording from:

Original paragraph

24.10.1 The National Executive Board will appoint a Chair of the Nominations Committee from past and former presidents.

Proposed paragraph

24.10.1 The National Executive Board will appoint a Chair of the Nominations Committee from National Executive Board or a designate.

Moved: Lakehead - Steve Seller

Seconded: Kamloops - Morgan Elander

Carried

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS & MEMBER ORGANIZATION REPORTS**

Tosh Kitagawa, Vice-President, facilitated question and answer period related to Membership Reports. The NEB reports are found in the booklet from page 41-65. The Member Organization Reports are found on pages 75-141 of the booklet. It was noted Vernon did not submit a membership report.

KJCA provided additional information regarding activities in Kamloops over the past year:

- 2015 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of folk fest in Kamloops, and the federal government presented plaques to 3 recipients who have done 40 years of folk fest.
- A plaque was also presented to Roy Inouye.
- Betty Inouye passed in 2015.
- Hockey Canada- Kamloops hosted the 2016 World Women's Hockey Tournament. KJCA donated to the tournament as the Japan Women's team was participating in the tournament.
- Thanks NAJC community development fund, for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cultural Centre, and 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Taiko Group.
- Kamloops celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship.
- In 2016 Roy Inouye passed away
- Kamloops also reported the require help from NAJC Nationally as a liaison, to promote the NAJC to the Local Organizations.

#### EJCA

The EJCA thanks the NAJC for grants which have helped invigorate the community. Sanae Ohki was instrumental in producing an Edmonton History Project. Copies of the report were presented to each member organization.

#### CJCA

CJCA reported the Conference Calls/National Council Meetings were very helpful in increasing communication with local organizations. CJCA reported most members of the CJCA members are new board members, and with the AGM in Calgary, it gives the new members the opportunity to see what the NAJC does on a national level.

#### Lillian Nakamura Maguire - NEB

Lillian indicated this will be her last AGM. Lillian has been a member of the NEB for 6 years, and was convinced to join the NEB, through contact with individuals within the Japanese Canadian Community. Lillian stressed that one-on-one contact, convinced her to have her name put forward to be a member of the NEB. Lillian strongly believes in the work the NAJC does on behalf of the community, and that each person in the room, has a responsibility, to grow and promote the NAJC.

A brief discussion took place, regarding re-implementing a liaison system, between the NEB and the Member Organizations.

#### GVJCCA Announcement

The GVJCCA thanks the NAJC for funding the Conference, "Honouring Our People". Following the conference, the Stories of the Seniors, were compiled into a book entitled "Honouring Our People. The book is about the JC experience during the Second World War, and is available from the GVJCCA, for \$25 per book

#### **Motion (#8) To accept the reports of the NEB and the Member Organizations**

Moved: Kamloops – George Uyeda - Kamloops

Seconded: Lorene Oikawa -Vancouver

#### Discussion on the Terms of Service for NEB Standing Committees

Steve Seller led a discussion on Terms of Service.

Discussions surrounding the terms of service for committee members were conducted during the AGM, in an open discussion format. The discussion revolved around (a) the notice to committee members about duration of terms of service, (b) the definition of the terms of service, (c) application of the bylaws as it pertains to terms of service, (d) potential for bylaw amendment. During the open discussion it was expressed that members of committees were unaware of the terms of service, (two year term as per the bylaws for a maximum of two consecutive terms), and that the notification of their end of service was unexpected. It was further discussed that the chairs of the individual committees should ensure that all their members be provided the policies and procedures manual along with the bylaws, and that the terms of service should be full disclosed and discussed with all committee members. The assembly discussed the potential for revisiting the bylaws, however it was generally agreed that they did not need to be amended. The assembly believed that although the bylaws exist and aide the NEB in providing a path for ending services of committee members, the bylaws should be applied as written without exception.

**Elections**

Ken Noma appointed Election Chair  
Jim Suzuki appointed Returning Officer

Observers:

Michiko Yano-Shuttleworth, Toronto  
Keiko Miki, Winnipeg  
Maureen Coleman, Calgary  
Lisa Uyeda, Nikkei Museum, Vancouver

**NEB Election Results:**

President	Elected by acclamation	David Mitsui	EJCA
Vice-President	Elected	Lorene Oikawa	Greater Vancouver JCCA
Secretary	Elected by acclamation	Michiko Yano Shuttleworth	Greater Toronto NAJC
Treasurer	Elected by acclamation	Noreen Kuroyama	Individual Member - Toronto
Director	Elected	Lisa Uyeda	Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre
Director	Elected	Susan Matsumoto	CJCA
Director	Elected	Eiko Eby	CVIJCCC

**National Executive Board (2016-18)**

President	David Mitsui
Vice-President	Lorene Oikawa
Secretary	Michiko Yano Shuttleworth
Treasurer	Noreen Kuroyama
Director	Lisa Uyeda
Director	Susan Matsumoto
Director	Eiko Eby
Director	Susanne Tabata

**Motion(#9) to approve the National Executive Board for 2016-18**

Moved: Edmonton - David Mitsui  
Seconded Vancouver - Lorene Oikawa  
Carried

**Motion (#10) to destroy the Ballots 30 days after September 9, 2016.**

Moved: Kamloops – George Uyeda  
Seconded: Regina – Andre Boutin Maloney  
Carried



Bev Ohashi, introduced David Mitsui as new President of the NAJC.

David Mitsui:

David indicated he was honoured to be nominated as President of the NAJC. Congratulations to all who put their names forward for nominations. And the first NEB meeting will take place at 7:00 am Sunday morning. Thanks to Joanne Planidin and Kevin Okabe for co-chairing the 2016 conference and AGM, and thanks to the effort of the Calgary Organizations, and volunteers.

David thanked the NEB for the service, and to Bev Ohashi for her leadership as President. Also thanks to Kevin Okabe, as Treasurer, and the NEB for their stewardship of the funds of the NAJC. The stewardship of these funds allowed the NAJC to create the Community Renewal Fund.

David indicated his focus over the next two years will be communications, and feels the suggestion of Kamloops, to have a liaison does have merit. The role of the NEB over the next two years will be to listen to the needs of the communities. The focus of the NAJC will be the future and youth.

At the October face-to-face meeting the NEB will finalize the Strategic Plan for 2016-17, and set priorities for the 2016-17 Budget. Once finalized this budget will be forward to the National Council for discussion and approval. A National Council (Web) meeting will be held for to approve the Budget.

On behalf of the 2016-18 National Executive Board, David looks forward to working the National Council over the next two years. Upcoming milestones include: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada, 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of internment, and 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge. These events will play a significant role, in the priorities of the NAJC over the next two years. Thank you for your support and confidence in the new executive.

Bev Ohashi advised a new Council has been established called the NAJC Honorary Advisory Council:  
The members of the council are:

Tatsuo Kage  
Mary Kitagawa  
Tosh Kitagawa  
Maryka Omatsu  
Setsuko Thurlow  
Terry Watada  
Dr. Henry Yu

A presentation ceremony took place honouring committee and NEB members who will be stepping down from their positions.

**Motion (#11) to adjourn : George Uyeda**

Meeting adjourned 5:35 pm