



**National Association of Japanese Canadians
National Executive Board
Friday, September 22, 2017
4:30-6:00 PM EST
(NAJC-NEB-Meeting-Sept22-2017)
A G E N D A**

A. Call to order: 4:32 pm
David Mitsui, President
Noreen Kuroyama, Treasurer
Bev Ohashi, Past President
Eiko Eby, Director
Susan Matsumoto, Director

Lorene Oikawa, Vice President
Michiko Yano Shuttleworth, Secretary
Susanne Tabata, Director
Lisa Uyeda, Director
Ken Noma, Executive Director
Karina Uehara, National Administrator

Regrets: Bryan Tomlinson

B. Minutes Recorder: Ken/Karina

C. Approval of the Agenda
Moved: Lorene, seconded: Michiko, carried

D. Approval of Minutes: NEB meeting: August 29, 2017 (ZOOM)
Moved: Eiko, seconded: Michiko, carried

E. President's Report : David
-Attachment 1: NAJC Summary of meeting
-Attachment 2: Jordan Stanger-Ross-LOI- Summary of meeting.
Landscapes of Injustice meeting with Project Director, Jordan Stanger-Ross, Lorene and Dave. Dave reported the following: - Jordan was given a list of NAJC concerns and a request that the NAJC sit on the Executive Committee along with the observation that the chair of the Community Council should be rotated on a regular basis. Jordan has promised that he will share his summary notes of the meeting along with the summary notes by Dave and Lorene with members of the Executive Committee and will respond with their decision. November deadline has been suggested for final response. Further action pending depending on the response from the EC and Jordan.

J. Business Arising: Code of Conduct was deferred to next meeting

F. Treasurer's Report Noreen
Meeting with Kevin: budget 2019 passed. Draft financial statement will be presented. Some 2018 expenses are included. Membership is \$0. Kevin will present another spreadsheet

tonight. It is an unaudited statement that needs to be revised. Noreen will stay with her planned preparation.

- 1) Motion: Accept the treasurer's unaudited statement
- 2) Motion: Approve 2018-2019 budget
- 3) Motion: Rehiring Les Miyazawa as we are transitioning to Quickbooks and Les knows about it. Just stay with the same auditor.

Moved: Lorene, seconded: at the AGM

J. Business Arising

- i. Code of Conduct Policy –deferred to next meeting

K. New Business

- i. Town of Stanstead, PQ: request – item deferred
- ii. Village of New Denver
 - Request for Supporting Membership
 - referred to Membership Committee who will bring forward a recommendation at the next NEB meeting
- iii. NAJC Webmaster Required
 - Lorene and Susanne will assist in doing a "stop-gap" until a process is created to hire a webmaster. ED will try to find the original ad that was posted several years ago.
- iv. JC Artist Directory Issue

Susanne reported on the issue of whether to leave the name of Nakayama on the Directory due to his past that is now public. The Directory Steering Committee and working group will discuss this further and make its recommendation to the NEB. Until a decision is made, the NEB has approved that his name be left on the Directory site. The directory stays the same until October when the committee will meet again to review the criteria. The NEB indicated that it would support the decision of the Steering Committee and Working Group.

- P. Adjournment : 5:45pm
Moved: Eiko

UPCOMING MEETING DATES: after the conference at 1:15 pm meet in the info booth of the museum, entrance on Sunday, September 24

NEXT NEB MEETING:

UPCOMING NEB Meetings

- i. ZOOM Video Conference: (All meetings: 8:30pm EST)
Tuesday, October 24
Monday, December 11
- ii. FACE TO FACE MEETINGS
January 19, 20 & 21, 2018 in Vancouver
May 25, 26 & 27, 2018 in Toronto

UPCOMING NATIONAL COUNCIL ZOOM meetings (All meetings: 8:30pm EST)
TBD

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1:

NAJC Meeting Highlights

September 15, 2017

Location: Tonari Gumi

Prepared by David Mitsui and Lorene Oikawa

Present: David Mitsui (President, National Association of Japanese Canadians - NAJC), Lorene Oikawa (Vice President, NAJC), Jordan Stanger-Ross (Project Director, Landscapes of Injustice - LOI)

The Partnership Agreement

NAJC – LOI Partnership Agreement signed by Beverley Ohashi, NAJC President, and Jordan Stanger-Ross, LOI Project Director, and NAJC VP and ED, and LOI Executive Committee on April 27, 2015. This agreement is a foundation for our partnership. Some of the key terms were outlined including:

- “This important project will assist in the renewal of a strong Japanese Canadian identity and will help to strengthen the community at the local and national level.”
- “Partnership with the NAJC would further our core goals of connection with and accountability to Japanese Canadians.”

Jordan dismissed the agreement and said that the partnership was based solely on “page 2.” This was confusing, and Jordan directed us to a separate document, *2015 Pilot Partnership Project NAJC/Landscapes of Injustice Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship*. This document is for a pilot project and was signed by Ken Noma (NAJC) and Jordan Stanger – Ross (LOI) on April 27, 2015.

When we pointed out key terms in the partnership agreement, Jordan said it was just an “aspiration statement” by the NAJC. Jordan said it was like “whereas statements supporting a motion.” Lorene pointed out that it was an agreement, agreed to, and signed by both parties.

Jordan added that the statements in the partnership agreement were “outside of the scope of the project.” Lorene said this was troubling if the partnership agreement is “outside of the scope of the project.”

Jordan commented that NAJC and LAC are newer partners, and that the Nikkei National Museum is part of the founding application. We are not sure what this has to do with honouring a partnership agreement.

Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship

We did not have a chance to fully discuss the scholarship, because we ran out of time. We would like the opportunity in the near future to discuss this part of the partnership agreement. We are interested in supporting Japanese Canadian research by Japanese Canadian academics, and we want to explore all options to best utilize our limited resources.

Community Council

We reviewed the terms of reference for the Community Council, and pointed out terms such as the role of the Council to “be a strong voice for the Japanese Canadian community to the LOI project,” and to “ensure that the research aligns well with the perceived needs and priorities of the Japanese Canadian community.” Jordan responded that it was the Community Council who created their own terms of reference. We asked how the Executive Committee ensures that the Community Council is able to fulfil its role. Jordan said he would have to think about this, because the Council is its own entity.

We also asked how the current membership on the Community Council represents the Japanese Canadian community such as geographic and national representation. We noted that there isn’t any current representation east of Winnipeg, and perhaps NAJC member organizations be represented. Jordan said it was up to the Council.

We proposed that the NAJC should have a role to ensure there is appropriate representation of Japanese Canadian communities, and not individual interests. We noted there are two vacancies at present, and we would want to vet their appointment to the Community Council to ensure suitable representation. We also expressed concerns about ensuring equitable representation and noted that the current chair has been in place for three years, and the chair role should be rotated.

Communication is an issue and we want the Project Director to have regular meetings with the Community Council members. Jordan said it was his practise to meet with the Council chair only, but he did say he was looking at setting up a meeting with Council members, a member of the executive committee, and himself. We said there should be regular meetings. There also has to be a process in place where the members of the Community Council are getting a regular update of activities, decisions, and any information from the office of the Project Director so the Council is kept in the loop.

We brought up that there had been resignations from the Community Council, and Dave said he had heard comments that they felt not valued or respected, and being on the Council felt like it was tokenism. We have also heard there were comments from executive committee members that they did not have to listen to the Community Council’s advice.

Japanese Canadian “Legacy” [Historic Places] Project

We expressed concerns with the LOI proposal with the Nikkei National Museum and Vancouver Japanese Language School appropriating work that doesn’t belong to any of the parties, and that the Community Council rejected twice.

Executive Committee

We stated that the NAJC must have a seat on the Executive Committee. The NAJC is the voice of Japanese Canadians across Canada, and had an important role in the history of Japanese Canadians, negotiating the historic Redress agreement in 1988. As the second phase of knowledge mobilization is starting, the NAJC would play an invaluable and unique role in ensuring the integrity of the stories of our ancestors. A seat on the EC would exemplify the partnership agreement with LOI, and enhance our common goals of connection with, and accountability to Japanese Canadians.

Conclusion

We reiterated that the NAJC supports the LOI. However, LOI's success will depend upon their response to create meaningful engagement of the Japanese Canadian community, and to demonstrate respect for our community. The Community Council must be supported to be a strong voice and truly representative of the Japanese Canadian community as we previously outlined. An equitable partnership for the NAJC would include a seat on the Executive Committee.

We agreed to respond to Jordan after we meet with our Executive Board, and then he would share our points with the LOI Executive Committee. Jordan agreed to provide additional materials to us such as copies of the LOI partnership agreements with the Nikkei National Museum and Vancouver Japanese Language School.

Attachment 2:

Summary Report of LOI and NAJC Meeting- Prepared by Jordan Stanger-Ross

September 15 2017

Following our lengthy and wide-ranging conversation of two hours, and I have written this summary to ensure that we have a shared understanding of the key points discussed.

I haven't tried to be comprehensive, but if there are important points that I have missed and that you think should be included here, please respond as soon as possible to inform me of this.

I have organized this summary under headings that I hope are helpful, although the conversation was more fluid than this might suggest. I have also included some additions in square brackets, which were not part of the discussion but I think are helpful notes.

Meeting Summary

Attending: David Mitsui, Lorene Oikawa, Jordan Stanger-Ross

Summary:

The Partnership Agreement

We began our discussion by talking about the partnership agreement between the NAJC and Landscapes of Injustice. In this conversation, some difference of perspective emerged.

In assessing the partnership to date, I emphasized the specific initiatives on pages 3 and 4 of our Partnership Agreement, which appear under the title of "2015 Pilot Partnership Project" [the pilot was subsequently renewed to cover the duration of the Landscapes of Injustice project]. This section of the partnership agreement specifies the co-funding of student scholarships by LOI and the NAJC (the Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship) and a reciprocal agreement to support the attendance of a senior representative from each organization at the Annual General Meeting of the other. I judged these initiatives to have been a success and asked whether there was any NAJC concern about these specific initiatives. None was articulated by either of you. [If you do have concerns about these specific initiatives that you were not able to articulate during the meeting, please feel to share those at any point going forward.]

Your comments, by contrast, emphasized some of the broader statements on the first page of the agreement. In particular, you noted the statement that, “this important project [Landscapes of Injustice] will assist in the renewal of a strong Japanese Canadian identity and will help to strengthen the community at the local and national level.” You also pointed to the line stating that “Partnership with the NAJC would further our [i.e. the Landscapes of Injustice project’s] core goals of connection with and accountability to Japanese Canadians.” You indicated that, while you support the Landscapes of Injustice project and hope to assist in its success, you had concerns about whether the project was fulfilling the commitments that you saw in these statements.

Some discussion ensued about the function of the various portions of the document. I indicated that I viewed the first page as containing statements of purpose and aspiration, which were to be actualized via the specific initiatives that followed on pages 3-4. I noted that if those specific activities were found insufficient to meet the aims of partnership (articulated on page 1), then it was our responsibility together to explore specific proposals that might better realize our aspirations. I further noted that the first of the statements indicated above (regarding the “renewal of a strong Japanese Canadian identity”) had been, from my perspective, an explanation by the NAJC of why the organization was participating (which I noted are common to our partnership agreements with all partners, where each indicates how the partnership fits their own core missions). In contrast, you described the specific initiatives as an “addendum” to the agreement, rather than a core feature. You indicated that the page 1 statements constituted, from your view, the core of the partnership agreement, signed by both parties, and against which its activity should be judged.

NAJC Concerns

As part of this discussion, you articulated some concerns and questions about the activity of the project. These came in and out of the discussion in a variety of ways over the remainder of the meeting. As I understood, your central positions are:

- That the Japanese Canadian community should have more control over the project, including in its governance and its Executive Committee;
- That the governance arrangements of the Community Council and its communication with the Project’s Executive Committee should be improved to enable it to play the role proposed in application and in the terms of reference for that body

In addition, you indicated that:

- Some members who had resigned from the Community Council did so because they felt that their positions were a matter of “tokenism” rather than enabling genuine influence within the project
- Eastern Canada, including eastern Canadian universities could be better featured in the project

JCLP

We also discussed at some length the details of the project’s response to an initiative of two of our community-based partner organizations, Nikkei National Museum and the Vancouver Japanese Language School (which together invited the support of Landscapes of Injustice for the Japanese Canadian Legacy Project). You expressed concern that, in your view, the project’s Executive Committee had not responded appropriately to the Community Council’s recommendation that the Landscapes of Injustice project withhold from participating in that initiative. I indicated that the Executive Committee, in my view, had responded appropriately to Council’s concerns, withdrawing significantly from the initiative without abandoning the principle of partnership. Some difference of perspective on this matter remained unresolved.

Matters that I sought to emphasize:

In response to your concerns, I sought to emphasize my view that:

- The Project's Executive has shown consistent and substantial responsiveness to suggestions and concerns raised by the Community Council and partner organizations.
- The project engages and makes itself accountable to the Japanese Canadian community in many different ways, including in its governance, as described on the document that I circulated before our meeting, which conveys four levels on which the input of Japanese Canadian individuals and organizations are integrated into the project, including its governance.
- I emphasized the value of partnership in the project, and the importance of responding to the proposals and initiatives of partners, while maintaining the integrity of the governance and mission of the project;
- I also tried to convey the origins of the project and its administrative processes. At the conclusion of the meeting, I provided an abridged version of the project's application to you, which specifies these arrangements.
- I emphasized the centrality of the Nikkei National Museum to the origins, design, and governance of our project.
- I expressed my openness to build the partnership with the NAJC in new and creative ways to fulfill the objectives of both organizations;
- I articulated some of the difficulty that arose from your decision to send formal letters to the President of the University of Victoria and to the President of SSHRC, prior to articulating any of these concerns directly to me or the Project's Executive Committee, even in the context of my reaching out and actively seeking NAJC input and feedback.

Specific Proposals

We concluded the meeting by discussing some specific proposals.

NAJC proposal with respect to Community Council

- You proposed that: the NAJC be given a formal role in the process to fill the two current vacancies on the Community Council. You indicated that, in playing this proposed role, the NAJC would help the project to attend to the goals of geographic, generational, and gender diversity on the Council.
- You proposed that: the Community Council Chairship operate on a rotational basis. [I want to note now that the current CC terms of reference (created by the CC and attached to this email), do not include the rotation of the chair. Might the copy that you had at the meeting have been a draft that you received from another party?]

I indicated that I would support these proposals and bring them to the Executive Committee.

NAJC Proposal with respect to the Executive Committee:

- You proposed that: That the NAJC be given a formal place on the Executive Committee
- You proposed further (in response to my question) that this place on the EC be filled by Lorene Oikawa

I indicated that I could take these proposals to the EC, but I advised that I cannot make a change to the EC without consultation. I further advised that such a proposal would be strengthened by (1) enhanced partnership activity (i.e. specific initiatives) between the NAJC and LOI and (2) a period of time and activity together in which trust and communication in partnership could be re-established. I noted that a proposal of this kind would be likely to go to our Advisory Board and Community Council for advice, and

that I thought at all levels—the EC, AB, and CC—the proposal would be strengthened by evidence of a strong working relationship and significant partnership activity.

In response, you stated that the National Association of Japanese Canadians is the representative voice of the Japanese Canadian community. You stated that the history of Japanese Canadian internment belongs to the community and that your organization represents the community in this respect. You stated that the status of the organization therefore merits a place on the Executive Committee. Further, you noted that the NAJC could help the project achieve its aims, particularly of connection across the country and representation of the community within the project.

You then pressed me for a direct response to this proposal in my capacity as Project Director. I emphasized the importance of trust and communication in partnership activity and the strain created, from my perspective, by the NAJC addressing concerns to the funding agency and the President of UVIC prior to any direct communication with me or the EC. I noted that Lorene had not responded to my direct requests to communicate with her in relation to the JCLP initiative.

I agreed that the importance of the NAJC is without doubt. However, I emphasized that the partners currently represented on the EC are included because of the specific roles and contributions of their organizations in the Landscapes of Injustice project, rather than the status of their organizations relative to other partners more generally [hence, for example, the NNM is represented on the EC, but the JCCC is not. This does not indicate any measure of the significance of the two organizations generally speaking, but rather reflects their specific roles within our partnership project].

I suggested therefore that this proposal would be stronger if we could first enhance the specific initiatives undertaken together, and then consider a proposal of this kind.

I left to your discretion whether you would ask me to take this proposal to the Executive Committee now, or to delay to allow for a period of enhancing the partnership before taking this formal proposal forward. You indicated that you would bring this question to your own Executive Board [I await your response on this front.].

My suggestions:

I suggested two other specific areas of possible collaboration:

- The provision, by the project, of access by the NAJC to materials collected in our Provincial Resources cluster, which may support your negotiations with the Province (this is in accordance with an earlier general resolution of the EC to share materials with community-based initiatives)
- Joint work on the proposed UVIC course on Japanese Canadian history and the internment era.

Attachment 3:

From: Bob Irvine [mailto:wellspark@sympatico.ca] **Sent:** August-10-17 1:22 PM **To:** National@najc.ca **Subject:** Proposal (Currently Under Development) of Potential Interest to the NAJC

Dear Ms. Uehara,

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you at your earliest convenience a proposal that I am working on here near Stanstead, Quebec.

I have attached (and pasted below) a DRAFT of the proposal.

We would love to be able to say to Prime Minister Trudeau that “the National Association of Japanese Canadians is aware of this initiative and supports it.”

If the government could move fast enough, it would announce this initiative at the time of your annual meeting in Ottawa. Here are my coordinates:

Bob Irvine

wellsark@sympatico.ca

819-847-4107

Best wishes. Bob

DRAFT/BROUILLION

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

With this letter, I am making a proposal to you and the Government of Canada on behalf of the Town of Stanstead, Quebec and its citizens. The Municipal Council of Stanstead and I firmly believe that you and members of your Cabinet will recognize the substantial merit of this proposal and its value to the Government of Canada and the Canadian people. First some background.

Three years from now—in 2020—Japan will welcome the world at the Games of XXXII Olympiad. Sadly, 2020 will also mark the 75th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Close to what was then ground-zero of the nuclear blast in Nagasaki is the Nagasaki Peace Park. This beautiful but understandably somber park commemorates the more than 60,000 men, women, and children of Nagasaki who were killed or injured as a direct result of the blast.

An important precinct within the Nagasaki Peace Park is the “Peace Symbol Zone.” The Zone is a garden featuring a variety of beautiful stone sculptures, which have been presented by some fifteen countries as gifts to the citizens of Nagasaki and the Japanese people as expressions of solidarity with them and in shared commemoration of the victims of the atomic blast. A full list of the countries represented in the park is included as Annex “A.” Importantly, as you will see from the list, some of the sculptures have been gifts of cities and towns on behalf of their countries. Most significantly, no sculpture has been given by Canada, a major combatant-nation in the Second World War, as you know.

For many years, the Town of Stanstead has played a preeminent role in Canada and globally in presenting and celebrating the artistic aspects of granite and other stone through a variety of means. In this context, we believe that the Town of Stanstead is well positioned to present to the citizens of Nagasaki the gift of a stone sculpture on behalf of the people of Canada. As you can appreciate, it is important that this gift be made well in advance of the 75th anniversary.

The following are additional considerations in respect to the timing of this initiative. In advance of the 2018 G7 Summit in Charlevoix, you will be visiting and actively consulting with your G7 colleagues including the Japanese Prime Minister. In the same way that you have played a leadership role in building right relationships with Canada’s indigenous peoples, Prime Minister, you could now make an important gesture of solidarity with the Japanese people if you were to announce the gift of a monument, on behalf of the people of Canada, to the Nagasaki Peace Park.

In addition to representing a commemoration of Japanese victims of the atomic bomb and a renewed call for peace in the world, this initiative could also have forward-looking dimensions, focused on elements of future cooperation between Canada and Japan. For example, in the past, through its Minerals and Lands Sector, Natural Resources Canada has undertaken major efforts – in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo – to present Canadian granite and other dimension stone as materials of choice for the Japanese construction industry and consumers. Perhaps these highly successful activities could be renewed in this context. Other areas of related cooperation could be pursued under the leadership of Ambassador Burney.

The Town of Stanstead has thoroughly investigated the modalities of this initiative and is poised to do its part to make this

vision a reality. I have had extensive discussions with the management of Rock of Ages Canada, Inc., a local business and globally recognized manufacturer of monuments of distinction. I have met and discussed the project at length with Mr. Satoshi Saito, R.C.A. and Ms. Louise Doucet, R.C.A., sculptors/artists of international renown, whom we are extremely proud to have as residents of our region. Mr. Saito and Ms. Doucet would be honoured to craft a sculpture for the Nagasaki Peace Park in partnership with Rock of Ages. Finally, my staff and I have been assisted on a *pro bono* basis by Mr. Robert Irvine, a former senior executive of Supply and Services Canada and Natural Resources Canada and now retired summer resident of our region. (During a recent visit to the Nagasaki Peace Park, Mr. Irvine and his wife have sadly found no Canadian monument.) A retired Japanese-Canadian business executive in Ottawa, Mr. Koichi Abe, is kindly helping us build rapport with and seek the guidance of authorities in Nagasaki on the project.

Prime Minister, you can thus see that we have a team, we have a plan, and we have momentum. But we need the active assistance and participation of the Government of Canada in order to fulfill this vision. We suggest that the best way to proceed in this matter would be as follows: Rock of Ages Canada, Inc. would make an unsolicited proposal to Public Services and Procurement Canada to construct, deliver, and install a Canadian commemorative monument in the Nagasaki Peace Park. In its proposal to PSPC, Rock of Ages would commit to engage Saito-Doucet to design and create the granite sculpture, which would be the focal point of this monument. Based on its preliminary estimates, Rock of Ages has determined that it could meet a statement of requirements by the Crown for this project—on time and in budget—at a cost of approximately \$362,000.

I bring two other points to your attention in respect to timing. First, with our strong endorsement, Mr. Saito and Ms. Doucet will carve their sculpture from the famous “Stanstead Grey” granite of our region. A beautifully crafted “piece of Canada” will thus remain in perpetuity in Nagasaki. Importantly, the quarry from which Mr. Saito and Ms. Doucet will draw their granite will close by the end of October. Second, as you know, the National Association of Japanese Canadians will hold its annual general meeting and conference in Ottawa on September 22-24, 2017.

We have brought this project to the attention of our Member of Parliament and Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau. The Council of the Town of Stanstead has unanimously passed a resolution supporting this plan of action. We now need a signal from the Government of Canada of its support for this project.

Prime Minister, I hope that you and your Ministers will recognize the substantial benefits of this proposed undertaking, both for the federal government and the Canadian people as a whole.

Yours sincerely,
Philippe Dutil,
Mayor of Stanstead.

Attachment 4:

Standing Committees and Special Advisors Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures Manual (Draft Proposal)

1.1 Member

All members/volunteers of Standing Committees and Special Advisors shall be a member of a current member organization of the NAJC or an individual member of NAJC;

1.1.2 The Committee Member/Special Advisor shall:

- a) support the principles of the NAJC Vision and Mission statements and the current policy and practices of the organization;
- b) abide by the NAJC Constitution and Bylaws;
- c) provide a complete and accurate disclosure of membership and/or affiliation in Japanese Canadian organizations
- d) will sign an agreement to the conditions noted

1.1.3 Dismissal

- a) failure to comply with any or all conditions of 1.1 and 1.1.2 will mean the immediate termination from all Standing Committees or as a Special Advisor by the National Executive Board

(NAJC-NEB-Agenda-Abbreviated-Sept22-2017)

DRAFT