



National Association of Japanese Canadians

# **The Constitution of the National Association of Japanese Canadians**

## ***Preamble***

On the 10th day of November 1985, Canadians of Japanese ancestry, assembled in the City of Toronto in the Province of Ontario, Canada, to solemnly constitute the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

Between 1941 and 1949, ministers of the Crown used their powers to achieve a political objective: the destruction of the Japanese Canadian community. The Canadian Government forced 21,000 Canadian residents of Japanese ethnic origin from their homes, confined most in detention camps, sold off all their real and personal property, and forced them to scatter across Canada or be repatriated to war-torn Japan.

The National Association of Japanese Canadians was organized to seek justice for Canadians of Japanese ancestry because of their history of ethnic persecution, racial discrimination and internment. After suffering the denial of democratic, citizenship and human rights, the Japanese Canadian community, through the National Association of Japanese Canadians, achieved a historic and precedent setting Redress from the Canadian Government on September 22, 1988. Although Redress was achieved in 1988, the mandate of the NAJC to protect the best interests of Japanese Canadians remains as necessary and relevant today as in the past. The unique history of Japanese Canadians belongs to those who are Canadian born and those who have immigrated. This shared experience has forever shaped and bound the Japanese Canadian community regardless of origin.

The primary aim of this Association is: to enable all Japanese Canadian organizations throughout Canada to work together on matters of concern to the Japanese Canadian community; to act in the best interests of individual members of the Japanese Canadian community who require support and representation; to work independently and with others to eliminate racial discrimination and related intolerances; to work in close co-operation with other organizations who are seeking redress for historic or other injustices; and to take collective action to better the political, social, educational and economic welfare of Canadians of Japanese ancestry.

In fulfilling this aim, the National Association of Japanese Canadians shall pledge its constant endeavours to develop a true Canadian democratic social order wherein the fundamental civil rights and liberties of all persons in Canada are protected.



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### **ARTICLE I NAME**

**Section 1.1** The name of the organization shall be the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

**Section 1.2** The organization shall hereinafter referred to as the N.A.J.C.

### **ARTICLE II NATURE**

**Section 2.1** The nature of the organization shall be non-partisan and non-Sectarian.

### **ARTICLE III AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims and objectives of the NAJC shall be:

**Section 3.1** To enable all Japanese Canadians to work together on matters of concern to the Japanese Canadian community, and to undertake collective action for the betterment of its political, social, educational, cultural and economic welfare.

**Section 3.2** To actively work independently and with others toward the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and related intolerances and to strive for equal rights and liberties for all persons in Canada, irrespective of and not limited to, race, colour, creed, national origin or sex and to combat discriminatory practices directed against disadvantaged groups by:

- a) Undertaking research for the purpose of gathering evidence of such discrimination and providing information of such evidence through the use of public services.
- b) Making representations to Government officials and elected representatives.
- c) Working in close co-operation with other organizations that are actively engaged in such work.

**Section 3.3** To promote and encourage Japanese Canadians to work together on matters of concern to all Canadians and undertake collective action for a better Canada and a world free from racism, poverty, inequality and war.



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- Section 3.4** To cooperate with organizations sharing the aims of the NAJC in protecting the rights of all groups in Canada; to promote and sponsor programs, projects and activities that enable Japanese Canadians to contribute towards the multicultural quality of Canadian society; to cooperate with other organizations whose educational, cultural, social and recreational activities foster the multicultural makeup of Canadian society; to work in close cooperation with groups and organizations who are seeking redress for historic and other injustices; and to abolish any restrictive measures which may still exist or may be imposed.
- Section 3.5** To assist all Japanese Canadian organizations that are striving for common objectives and to channel their efforts, where feasible, under central administration.
- Section 3.6** To promote and encourage among Japanese Canadian, the cultural, educational, social and recreation activities conducive to better citizenship and to stress to Japanese Canadians the duties, obligations and responsibilities inherent in Canadian citizenship and encourage them to become more conscious of all the rights and privileges of citizenship.
- Section 3.7** To present to other organizations and levels of Governments whenever and wherever possible the interests of Japanese Canadians in national, provincial, and local matters and to inform these organizations and Governments of concerns affecting Japanese Canadians.

## **ARTICLE IV RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 4.1 Organizations**

Rights of Membership:

- a) To appoint a delegate(s) to represent the Organization at an Annual General Meeting or Special General meeting.
- b) To send delegate(s) to the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting in accordance with the designated number of delegates.

Rights of Associate Membership

- a) To send a delegate(s) to represent the Organization at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.



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### **Section 4.2** Rights of Individuals

- a) To attend the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meetings.

### **ARTICLE V DISSOLUTION**

Should the NAJC be dissolved, any remaining assets of the NAJC shall be entrusted to the Japanese Canadian community through a foundation, created by the Membership at a Special General Meeting or Annual General Meeting, committed to the principles, vision and mandate of the NAJC.

This Article V (Dissolution) shall not be amended.

### **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Following a consultative process with the Membership, the CONSTITUTION may be amended at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the Membership, provided that twelve weeks written notice of the proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution and the time and location of the AGM or Special General Meeting has been given to the Membership. Any amendment to the Constitution shall not be enforced or acted upon until the approval of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has been obtained.