



National Association of Japanese Canadians

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**By: Noreen Kuroyama**

The 2018 Nominations Committee members include Noreen Kuroyama (Toronto, current NEB Treasurer), Roger Teshima (Calgary), Lisa Uyeda (Vancouver, current NEB Director) and Terumi Kuwada (Winnipeg, Past President). The committee are supported by the Executive Director (Kevin Okabe), who sits in on the Nominations Committee meetings, and Karina Uehara, who does not sit in on the meetings but manages the administrative processes relating to the nominating process.

During the year, NEB election processes were codified and distributed to the membership in order to provide a clear overview of the 2018 election process.

Under the by-laws there should be three appointed members on the Nominations Committee plus the Past-President, who serves as chair. Unfortunately, the Past-President (Bev Ohashi) is no longer serving the NAJC in that capacity. Keiko Miki (Winnipeg) was a member of the committee up until June 22, 2018. She resigned her position as at that date to submit a nomination for the Vice President position.

### **A. Voting Rights of Members**

<b>Member Type</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Nominate/Second Nominations</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Full Member Organization	10 votes (cannot be split)	Yes	Must be member in good standing, with renewals and payments processed in time
Supporting Member Organization	2 votes (cannot be split)	Yes	Must be member in good standing, with renewals and payments processed in time
Individual Member	1 vote	Yes	Must be member in good standing, with renewals and payments processed in time, cannot be director or executive member of



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<b>Member Type</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Nominate/Second Nominations</b>	<b>Comments</b>
			member organization
National Executive Board	1 vote	Not identified	Not clear whether an National Executive Board member needs to hold individual membership in order to vote
Chair (appointed by NEB)	No vote unless to break tie	No	Vote to break tie will be cast anonymously and will not be made public to the membership
Returning Officer (appointed by NEB)	None	No	

### **B. Recommendations from the Nominations Committee**

Recommendation 1: For the future, it is recommended that the nomination form should be revised as follows:

- The check boxes used to identify the position the candidate is running for should make the selection very clear;
- Candidates should declare their membership(s) in the NAJC and its member organizations; and
- The eligibility criteria for election to the National Executive Board should be identified on the form and the candidate should sign a declaration stating that they meet the following eligibility criteria:

#### 13. National Executive Board

13.1. To be eligible for election to the National Executive Board, a member must:

- (a) be of Japanese descent, partially of Japanese descent, or a spouse or child of a person of Japanese descent;
- (b) be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident within the meaning of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, as amended from time to time;
- (c) be bondable;



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- (d) be committed to upholding the purposes, philosophy and general policies of the NAJC, as state in the Constitution;
- (e) have the willingness and ability to devote necessary time to Board activities;
- (f) have particular expertise or experience deemed necessary or desirable by the Membership; and (g) Protect the confidential nature of information discussed at National Executive Board Meetings

Recommendation 2: The National Executive Board review the questions posed by the Nominations Committee below and clarify how the specific clauses should be interpreted and followed. The Nominations Committee recommends that the Constitution and By-Law committee review and suggest changes to the NAJC’s By-laws to address the issues identified in the table below.

<b>Extract from Current By-Laws</b>	<b>Nomination Committee Comments/Questions</b>
<p><i>8.1 Nominations</i></p> <p>8.1.1. To qualify for nomination in any election, a potential nominee must be a member-in-good standing of the NAJC or of a NAJC member organization for more than one year prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the elections are to take place.</p>	<p>The nomination forms should ask nominees to identify their membership affiliations so that the qualifications with respect to this bylaw can be confirmed. Member organizations should be asked to confirm that a nominee has been a member in good standing for more than one year.</p>
<p>8.1.2. Only two (2) persons from one (1) Member Organization are eligible for election and if there are more than two (2) persons from one (1) Member Organization wishing to run for a position, the Member Organization must select two (2) persons to stand for election.</p>	<p>Should confirm whether membership in an organization would constitute where a member is from. Could a nominee effectively be “from” several organizations if the nominee holds membership in multiple organizations? (e.g. subscription to JCCA Bulletin also provides membership in the Greater Vancouver JCCA).</p> <p>The Nomination Committee believes that “position” should be changed to “National Executive Board”. It is very unlikely to have more than two people from a member organization running for one specific position. However, there could be a possibility that more than two people from a member organization run for</p>



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<b>Extract from Current By-Laws</b>	<b>Nomination Committee Comments/Questions</b>
	<p>different positions on the National Executive Board.</p> <p>Are people appointed to director positions exempt from meeting the requirements of this by-law?</p>
8.1.5 Any candidate shall only run for a single Executive Board position.	<p>The restriction on running for just one position on the Executive Board could result in people that are interested in serving on the National Executive Board being eliminated because they happen to run for a position that was contested. Allowing people to run for multiple positions on the other hand could make mail in voting more complicated to administer.</p>
13.6 The members of the National Executive Board shall not have the right to vote on motions and shall only vote as Individual Members in elections.	<p>This clause seems to suggest that National Executive Board members do have a right to vote as individual members in elections. Does this mean that all National Executive Board members can vote in elections, irrespective of whether they are individual members of the NAJC?</p>

It may be a good idea to consult with the former members of the Constitution and By-laws committee for their interpretation of the above.

### **C. Timeline relating to the Nomination and Election Process**

April 24, 2018 – Nomination papers to be sent out from the National Office (Done)

June 23, 2018 – Deadline to receive nomination forms (Passed)

July 23, 2018 – Nomination papers to be sent out to membership as received.  
(Done)

August 23, 2018 – Deadline for receiving requests for a mail-in ballot from members (Passed)

September 14, 2018 – Deadline for receiving mail-in ballots from members to be counted at the election

September 21, 2018 – Annual General Meeting held, where elections are to take place.