

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – AUGUST 2019



NAJC AGM

Annual General Meeting

Via Zoom Aug 24, 2019

We would like to remind you that our first Annual General Meeting to be held over Zoom will take place next Saturday, August 24 starting at 12:00 Noon PDT. This means that the meeting will occur at:

12 Noon Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

1 PM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

2 PM Central Daylight Time (CDT)

3 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

We have attached the agenda for your information. **Pre-registration is required** at the following website:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/38cf178590ca5c2cde7dc3c8da9331e>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. We expect to finish compiling our annual report shortly – and it will be made available in the password protected section of the najc.ca website. If you do not know how to access that, simply go to www.najc.ca and click on “Home”. There will be a drop down menu item called “Members Access”. Just enter the password N1kk3inat!0nal and you should be able to access the member’s only section of the website.

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BC Redress Online **Consultations and Survey**

There are two more on-line consultations scheduled on BC Redress. The consultations will feature a short presentation about BC Redress followed by a group discussion about the question:

“What should the Government of British Columbia do to redress its history of racial discrimination and unjust actions that devastated the Japanese Canadian community?”

Online Consultations

The on-line consultations will take place:

Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 5:00 PM PDT/6:00 PM MDT/7:00 PM CDT/8:00 PM EDT

Registration Link:

<https://naiconlinenonbc.eventbrite.ca>
(Intended for Residents living outside of British Columbia)

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM PDT/8:00 PM MDT/9:00 PM CDT/10:00 PM EDT

Registration Link:

<https://naiconlinebc.eventbrite.ca> (Intended for Residents of British Columbia)

Online Survey

In addition, we are also accepting on-line responses to the above question on our website until August 31, 2019. To access the survey, please go to this link:

<http://najc.ca/wp/bc-redress-consultations-online-submission/>

BC Redress Q&A Let’s Talk about It

Hosted by the JCYoungLeaders

This is an invitation to Japanese Canadians of all generations and the community at large to get updates on BC Redress. This event will be structured like a Q&A, so please use this as an opportunity to learn about Federal Redress, BC Redress thus far, upcoming phases and share ways in which to improve the overall process. On the call, there will be representatives from NAJC, NEB, the BC Redress Steering Committee and the GVJCCA HRC.

If you were unable to attend in-person and online community consultations between April and now, this event is for you! Please share with your networks FAR AND WIDE!!!

Monday, August 26, 2019 at 6:00 PM PDT/7:00 PM MDT/8:00 PM CDT/9:00 PM EDT

To join, login to Zoom using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/356811029>

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BC Redress in the News

Go to the links below to see some of the latest news on BC Redress that appeared in the media recently:

August 13, 2019 CBC Ottawa Interview with Lynn Kobayashi

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-100-ottawa-morning/clip/15731320-what-should-the-government-of-b.c.-do-to-redress-its-history-of-racial-discrimination-that-devastated-the-japanese-canadian-community>

July 22, 2019 Vancouver Sun article by Dan Fumano

<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/dan-fumano-japanese-canadian-redress-project>

July 22, 2019 Interview with Lorene Oikawa (Adam Stirling Hour 3 – July 22nd - about 20 minute mark)

<http://www.iheartradio.ca/cfax-1070/site-search-local-7.15195911?searchField=japanese>

July 22, 2019 Vancouver Sun Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4Sm62Dpkk> - Youtube Video

July 21, 2019 Canadian Press article by Camille Bains

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/japanese-canadians-apology-bc-1.5219320>

NAJC President's Message



By Lorene Oikawa

We had a flurry of media interest in the BC Redress process. For the most up-to-date information about the community consultation process please check our website

najc.ca/bcredress We are still collecting input from our community until the end of August so please talk to your family and other Japanese Canadians to encourage them to share their ideas. There are a few in-person and online meetings happening this month and you can also make a submission online (fill in a form on our website) or by emailing ed@najc.ca. You have until August 31 to provide input. Nothing is final at this time. Once all the input is received then it will be reviewed and we will be able to prepare a report with our findings going to the BC provincial government in October 2019. The links for the online meetings are posted at najc.ca/bcredress

As we are wrapping up the BC Redress community consultations, we are also preparing for the NAJC Annual General Meeting on August 24. More information will be going out to the members and we will be utilizing technology to conduct our first online AGM.

Festival season is winding down. Powell Street Festival Calgary Omatsuri are finished for the year. Winnipeg Folklorama started on August 4 and wraps up on August 17.

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President's Message, continued

Nikkei Matsuri will take place at the end of the month, on August 31 & September 1 at the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre in Burnaby BC.

At the end of last month I was clicking on my computer browser and happened to see the google doodle, the image on Google's homepage which commemorates events, holidays, and historical figures. The image of a Japanese man's face with stamps on a passport and one stamp that said Lithuania immediately brought to mind, Chiune Sugihara. He was a Japanese diplomat stationed in Lithuania. In July 1939, before the start of the Second World War, he started issuing visas to help thousands of Jewish refugees escape via Japan. He defied orders from his superiors and started writing and stamping the visas night and day. He issued over 2,000 visas which saved about 6-10,000 people and which has resulted in an estimated 100,000 descendants of families who received the visas. If you don't know the story check it out. It's a powerful story of the impact of one man's actions.

As the world takes a moment to remember the 74th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this month, let's also take a moment to recognize the actions of a Japanese Canadian woman who is working for peace and to prevent another nuclear attack and devastation. NAJC was fortunate to have Setsuko Thurlow as a keynote speaker at the Gala organized by the NAJC and the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society in Victoria in 2015, a couple of years before she gave the acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize.

She accepted the award on behalf of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

She is using her experience as an atomic bomb survivor to prevent it from happening again. "I am committed to share the warning of Hiroshima until my last breath."

I had the opportunity to speak to Setsuko Thurlow last month and thanked her for her work. She started telling me about her new book that is coming out. She has discovered an early connection with her family and Canada. She was interested in the story of my mother's side of the family who came from Hiroshima in the 1800s and settled in Cumberland on Vancouver Island. We discovered we had someone in common, one of my Hiroshima family who she knows well.

A small world. If only everyone could see how we are all connected and take action to stop the behaviour that is harmful to people and our environment.

Nobuki Sugihara, Chihune's youngest son has said that his father was moved to help because of human kindness not religion or politics.

Here's to more kindness in the world and I hope more quality time for you with your families.



Remembering

Gordon Kadota

By NAJC President Lorene Oikawa

The NAJC received some very sad news from the Kadota family. Gordon Kadota, a former NAJC president, passed away on July 31, 2019. He had an amazing life, and if he was telling his story, he may have started with, “It’s a long story.” He was able to play a vital role as a bridge between Canada and Japan. When he was 7 years old he went to Japan for a family visit, but because of the Second World War he was unable to return to Canada and ended up completing his education in Japan. A few years after he returned, he started volunteering for the Japanese Canadian community. He was the second editor of the Bulletin magazine in 1960. He organized Japanese Canadian events in 1977 for the 100th anniversary of the first documented Japanese man in Canada. He was president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians from 1980 to 1983. He was the founding member of the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre which opened in 2000. Gordon also did some lecturing in Japan at the college and university level to share Japanese Canadian history. His many accomplishments were recognized with a number of awards including the Order of the Rising Sun in 2005; Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013; and the Thomas Shoyama Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.

His achievements also included owning companies specializing in tourism between Japan and Canada, translating and business consulting services, and co-founding the OK Gift Shop with Canadian stores in Vancouver, Banff, and Niagara Falls.

Gordon was active in the Japanese Canadian community and was a familiar sight at many events.

At one of the events last year, a speaker, Dr. Eric Adams was sharing the story about the origins of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In 1980, NAJC president Gordon Kadota led a delegation including Roger Obata and Dr. Henry Shimizu to address a government committee. Gordon’s powerful speech urging a strong charter and to entrench it in the constitution to provide the protection that Japanese Canadians did not have, had a powerful impact on the government committee. After Dr. Adams finished speaking, it was noted that Gordon Kadota happened to be present, and the audience broke into applause.

Some of Gordon’s words in 1980:

“Our history in Canada is a legacy of racism made legitimate by our political institutions, and we must somehow, ensure that no groups of Canadians will be subjected to the whims of political process, as we were.”

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Remembering Gordon Kadota, continued

“We, the National Association of Japanese Canadians urge your recommendation to the Government of Canada, to include in the constitution, a just and unconditional charter of human rights which will ensure that the fundamental rights of a free society be the birthright of all Canadians.”

Gordon Kadota will be remembered for his important work on behalf of the Japanese Canadian community. We will also remember his kindness, good humour and generosity. He always had time to share a story with me, and I wish I had more time with him. Our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues across Canada, the United States, England and Japan.

We asked former NAJC president Art Miki to share his thoughts about Gordon Kadota:

Gordon first became President of NAJC in 1980, the first president from British Columbia. One of his greatest contributions was his passionate presentation at a Parliamentary Committee on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms where he forcibly articulated the need for the Charter as he exemplified the unjust experiences faced by Japanese Canadians during wartime was the denial of rights.

He was president during the time the idea of redress was percolating within the Japanese Canadian community. After the disastrous meeting in Toronto in September 1983, there was an attempt by the Redress Committee to gain support of National Council to accept a community foundation as redress. This resulted in heated reactions from Council members who felt that the lack of consultation and views for

individual compensation were ignored. Gordon was left with the challenge to reunite the community as he travelled across the country to hear their views. It was shortly after that I became president to carry where Gordon left off.

I knew Gordon on a personal note. He was proud of his heritage and was passionate about the Japanese Canadian community. He was extremely generous in his support of the

community activities both in his volunteerism and financially. I enjoyed the many discussions we had as we pondered over questions such as increasing community engagement and the future of the Japanese Canadian community. Gordon had accumulated a wealth of information during his tenure and his files will be an invaluable resource to preserve.

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In Other News:

We have been asked to forward this information to our membership, for your information:

NHK World Japan – Live Stream Documentary on Japanese Canadians

NHK-World Japan will be live streaming a project which includes interviews with Nisei (second generation Japanese Canadians) about their internment experiences in TASHME and Lemon Creek.

Dr. Henry Shibata, Ottawa NAJC Director, is one of the Japanese Canadians who were interviewed by NHK. Susan Hidaka, Toronto NAJC member, and NAJC National Executive Board Director, Kiyoshi Dembo, provided assistance with this project.

The broadcast dates are Friday, August 23 at 9:10 p.m. EDT (6:10 p.m. PDT) and Saturday, August 24 at 10:10 a.m. EDT (7:10 a.m. PDT). The tv channel is not available on local cable providers but it can be watched via live streaming.

Click on this link:

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/live/>.

Hayashi Studio Film

Hayley Gray's new film about Cumberland is now online! Hayashi Studio uncovers the hidden history of Vancouver Island through the lens of Japanese photographer Senjiro Hayashi.

You can access the video here:

hayashistudio.com/

Conference on Asian Linguistic Anthropology (CALA)

The CALA, with major partners Taylor and Francis Publishers Global, SOAS (University of London), The University of Illinois, Temple University, and our 120 global affiliates in whole, manages the global network of scholarship on Linguistic Anthropology, and on Language and Society, pertinent to Asia (<https://cala.asia/associated-bodies/>).

It's projects, events, and media hold great significance for Asian and global academia. Here, The CALA also houses the JALA, The Journal of Asian Linguistic Anthropology.

The CALA 2020, The Conference on Asian Linguistic Anthropology 2020 will be held on February 5-8, 2020, at the University Putra Malaysia Bintulu Campus, Sarawak, Malaysia.

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Upcoming Dates and Upcoming Meeting Notifications:

September 19-22, 2019
COPANI XX San Francisco
www.copani.org

September 28, 2019
NAJC General Membership Meeting
BC Redress Consultations
Via Zoom Internet Conferencing
5:30 PM PST
6:30 PM MST
7:30 PM CST
8:30 PM EST

December 18, 2019
NAJC General Membership Meeting
Via Zoom Internet Conferencing
5:30 PM PST
6:30 PM MST
7:30 PM CST
8:30 PM EST

March 18, 2020
NAJC Special General Meeting
Bylaw and Constitutional Changes
Via Zoom Internet Conferencing
5:30 PM PST
6:30 PM MST
7:30 PM CST
8:30 PM EST

Enews versus Membership Newsletter

This newsletter is being created to inform the official NAJC Membership about NAJC news, notifications and activities. This is different than distributions that are occurring via enews, which may include individuals and organizations that are not members of the NAJC.

If you are not on the NAJC Enews distribution, please feel free to add yourself by going to www.najc.ca and filling out your details in the section on the bottom of the page “Subscribe to our mailing list”.