



FORMAL SUBMISSION OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS REPORT

We have completed the report on the findings from the community consultations. We will be releasing the report to the community and presenting it to the Government of BC on Friday, November 15, 2019 between 1:30 PM and 2:00 PM Pacific Standard Time.

The event can be live-streamed on the newly created NAJC Youtube channel found here:

[youtube.com/channel/UCZR7fZhLKXgLQJwIbLV1YEQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZR7fZhLKXgLQJwIbLV1YEQ)

or bit.ly/2CAFmjl

The Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, will be present, representing the Government of British Columbia.

National Office

180 McPhillips Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 2J9
(204) 943 2910

www.najc.ca

Contact Us!

EXECUTIVE

Lorene Oikawa

president@najc.ca

Keiko Miki

vp@najc.ca

Les Kojima

treasurer@najc.ca

Eiko Eby

secretary@najc.ca

DIRECTORS

Kiyoshi Dembo,

membership@najc.ca

Alex Miki

youngleaders@najc.ca

Susanne Tabata

ace@najc.ca

Bryan Tomlinson,

governance@najc.ca

David Mitsui

pastpresident@najc.ca

STAFF

Kevin Okabe

ed@najc.ca

(403) 561 7572

Executive Director

Karina Uehara

national@najc.ca

(204) 943 2910

National Administrator

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Vol. 4 - NOVEMBER 2019



**National Association
of Japanese Canadians
invites you to witness**

**Formal Submission of the Community
Consultations Report
Recommendations for Redressing
Historical Wrongs Against
Japanese Canadians in BC**

**Presented to BC Provincial Government
Lisa Beare
Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture**

**Friday, November 15, 2019
1:30pm-2:00pm SHARP**



LIVE STREAM
[youtube.com/channel/UCZR7fZhLKXgLQJwlbLV1YEQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZR7fZhLKXgLQJwlbLV1YEQ)
or bit.ly/2CAFmjl



NAJC President's Message

By Lorene Oikawa



On November 11, I was at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park, Vancouver, laying a wreath on behalf of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC), and remembering Japanese Canadians who served their country Canada. In the First World War, British Columbia denied the efforts of Japanese Canadians to enlist and over 220 went to Alberta in order to enlist. Despite their loyalty and bravery, when they returned home they were still denied the right to vote. In 1942, the First World War Canadian veterans would be rounded up and forcibly uprooted, dispossessed, and interned along with the rest of the Japanese Canadian community. In the Second World War, Japanese Canadians were also denied the opportunity to serve Canada. My uncle Buck Suzuki would eventually be accepted by the British Army although the Canadian Army would say that he was on loan to the British Army.

I remember a grainy black and white photo of my uncle Buck in uniform in front of the cenotaph in Stanley Park with another soldier. The cenotaph would have been about 28 years old in that photo. Next year will be its centenary, and plans for the celebration on April 9, 2020 will be announced at this year's Remembrance Day.

In April 2020 it will be only 71 years since Japanese Canadians were allowed to vote. Chinese- and Indo-Canadians obtained the right to vote two years earlier in 1947 and for Indigenous Peoples it wasn't until 1960. While it was gratifying to see so many people in my social media feed declaring that they voted in last month's federal election, it is still concerning that 34% of Canadian voters, 9.2 million people didn't vote.

When we fail to vote, we let others make the decisions that have huge impacts on our lives and our community. When we fail to know our history, we repeat and let others repeat the mistakes of the past. We all suffer from the consequences. Making sure people know the stories of Japanese Canadians was a common message during the BC Redress community consultations. We are finalizing the paper that will present the findings to the BC government and the public. Information will be coming out, but not in time for this month's president's message. Please go to the NAJC website for updates.

Also, please take advantage of opportunities to learn about the stories of Japanese Canadians. In Toronto, on November 7, Dr. Eric Adams

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Vol. 4 - NOVEMBER 2019



shared the stories of “How Japanese Canadians Shaped the Constitution.” I was fortunate to be at his presentation last year in Vancouver. Dr. Adams shared the story of former NAJC president Gordon Kadota and how he led a delegation in 1981 to challenge the government to strengthen the then proposed Charter of Rights and Freedoms so that the injustice faced by Japanese Canadians would not be repeated with any other group of people. The government was so moved by the presentation and did make improvements. To the delight of the audience, Gordon Kadota happened to be present and shared some of his thoughts. Thanks to the Greater Toronto Chapter of the NAJC for hosting this event.

We were fortunate in Vancouver to see a play, *Hold These Truths*, inspired by the life of Gordon Hirabayashi. Gordon Hirabayashi, a US Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient fought against the forced removal and mass incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry in the US during the Second World War. At the end of last month, we attended a NAJC night which included a talk back, Q&A session with the star, Joel de la Fuente, and producer Tamlyn Tomita.

Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi was known for his courage and leadership on human rights in Canada and the US. When he was a college student in 1942, he challenged the US curfew imposed on Japanese Americans. He was a well-known and active member of the NAJC Council during the 1980s and helped shape the NAJC redress principles. In 2012, the NAJC created the Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award in his honour.

“Hirabayashi’s journey, from his time as a young man fighting injustice in America to his final days as an educator and activist in Canada,

demonstrates his passion and hunger for freedom. It is an inspiring quest of what one can do to fight inequality, a tenacious reminder of history, and a reflection of how we, too, can change the future if we hold on to these truths.”

Hold These Truths made its international debut at the Cultch Historic Theatre in Vancouver after a celebrated US tour. I have asked about other locations in Canada. Stay tuned.

Continue to learn the truth and stories about Japanese Canadians. Besides the minute at 11am on November 11, take the time to remember those who fought for our democracy.





Have You Seen the News?

New Six-Part Series of Articles on the Uprooting and Dispossession of Japanese Canadians

A new six-part series on the BC government responsibility for the uprooting and dispossession of Japanese Canadians, 1941-1949, is being published weekly. The articles were written by Dr. John Price in support of NAJC's work to restore the Japanese Canadian community. John has been our champion from the beginning.

Part 1: Righting a Historical Wrong for Japanese Canadians. You can read it here:

https://www.timescolonist.com/islander/our-history-righting-a-historical-wrong-for-japanese-canadians-1.23996497?fbclid=IwAR3jhGNYwG79oLte2za_ZQB-3zHIJVLGUMdnXnnRH5009wCPg0XiMadRH7o

Part 2: Our History: B.C. engineers a coup. You can read it here:

<https://www.timescolonist.com/islander/our-history-after-pearl-harbor-province-lobbied-for-displacement-of-japanese-canadians-1.24002530?fbclid=IwAR2Op1qrLLKQAgJ55H4n-zRiyziSyGNdZpXAuhm3oF8ehY0kOygFBYYQGo>



In Other News:

Vancouver Japanese Language School designated a National Historic Site!

Courtesy the Vancouver Japanese Language School



Our first student body after reopening in 1953.
NNM.1996.170.16.1.12.

We are honoured to announce that we have been designated a National Historic Site. Founded in 1906, VJLS-JH was the first and largest of the 50 schools operating before the Second World War. Designed by the architectural firm of Sharp and Thompson (UBC Point Grey Campus, Burrard Street Bridge), our

Heritage Building was built in 1928 to expand and become a community centre: Japanese Hall.

Against all odds in light of the dispossession of all Japanese Canadian-owned properties during the Internment (1942 to 1949), community leaders fought to prevent the property's sale, restored ownership in 1952 and reopened in 1953. One of the only properties returned to any Japanese Canadian, it remains a powerful symbol of community strength and resilience.

We join a family of National Historic Sites in Metro Vancouver - Stanley Park, Lions Gate Bridge and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery in Steveston. Stay tuned for our plaque-unveiling celebration next year!

Read their story here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ufef9l3frxbkuo/japanese_school%20BC%20History%2052.1.pdf?dl=0

Watch their history slideshow:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/b9d908odfa8xpyg/VJLS-NationalHistoricSite.mp4?dl=0>

PS Please contact the Vancouver Japanese Language School if you can identify any of the students pictured in the 1953 photo at left.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Vol. 4 - NOVEMBER 2019



NAJC-Robert Obata Prize

The NAJC-Robert Obata Prize is an award established by the National Association of Japanese Canadians in 2004. The funds generated annually is granted to the student who obtains the highest standing in the International Human Rights course at Osgoode Hall Law School.

In the 2018 the award was granted to Eleanor Andrew. In 2019 it was granted to Jatinder Grewal

Both were enrolled in the JD program at Osgoode.

Keiko Miki and Lucy Yamashita Honoured at JCAM 2019 Annual Gala

This was a very special night to support JCAM and also to honour three special people. The NAJC would like to offer our congratulations to Keiko Miki, Lucy Yamashita and Samantha Courtney.

We also want to acknowledge Keiko and Lucy's special connection to NAJC.

Keiko is currently NAJC vice president and she has provided long service to the NAJC including her role as a past-president. Lucy also has a long history with the NAJC serving on the executive board as secretary treasurer, and helping out as our administrator before becoming the long-time president of the cultural centre in Winnipeg. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to benefit the Japanese Canadian community.

Events and Happenings:

Festival Accès Asie

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2020

Symposium September 2010 at MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels).

The Festival is organizing a second National Symposium of Asian Heritage Month for the year 2020!

The goal of this initiative, which will be held in Montreal from September 10 to 13 2020, is to identify common needs and gain an overview of the challenges facing Asian arts festivals and organizations across the country.

For more information, visit our web site.

https://accesasie.com/symposium-national-2020/?fbclid=IwAR0EBccOQ4clKdHoGKmb73ET17 JkW_3fw-4RO_ehnjFFJ8NXAj4lxeAfKg&lang=en

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Vol. 4 - NOVEMBER 2019



Upcoming Dates and Meeting Notifications:

NAJC General Membership Meeting

Via Zoom Internet Conferencing

December 18, 2019

5:30 PM PST

6:30 PM MST

7:30 PM CST

8:30 PM EST

NAJC Special General Meeting

Bylaw and Constitutional Changes

Via Zoom Internet Conferencing

March 18, 2020

5:30 PM PST

6:30 PM MST

7:30 PM CST

8:30 PM EST

NAJC Annual General Meeting and National Conference

Edmonton, Alberta

September 2020

Enews versus Membership Newsletter

This newsletter has been 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 would like to submit an article or notification to the next NAJC Membership Update, please email your submission to ed@najc.ca. We expect to publish our next edition in November 2019.

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”

NAJC and Japanese Canadian Facebook Sites

Check out the Japanese Canadian and NAJC Facebook site to keep up to date on events, happenings, stories and photos!

<https://www.facebook.com/najc.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Japanese.Canadian.FG/>

(submit member request to join)