



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

**NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Meeting Type/Purpose: INTERNAL – Zoom Annual General Meeting</b>	
Date: December 16, 2020 5:30 PM PDT/6:30 PM MDT/7:30 PM CDT/8:30 PM EDT	Location: via Zoom

Roll Call at 7:32 pm CDT

	<b>Attending</b>	<b>Regrets</b>
NAJC Full Organizational Members: 10 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Calgary Japanese Community Association- Roger Teshima</li> <li>-Edmonton Japanese Community Association- Sanae Ohki</li> <li>-Greater Toronto Chapter of NAJC- Kim Uyede-Kai</li> <li>-Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian- Judy Hanazawa</li> <li>-Hamilton Chapter NAJC- Patti Simpson</li> <li>-Japanese Canadian Association of Yukon- Fumi Torigai</li> <li>-Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba- Kelly Kaita</li> <li>-Ottawa Japanese Community Association- Melisa Kamibayashi Staples</li> <li>-Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society Citizens' Association – Tsugio Kurushima</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Kamloops Japanese Canadian Association</li> <li>-Lakehead Japanese Cultural Association</li> <li>-Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge &amp; Area</li> <li>-Vernon Japanese Cultural Society</li> </ul>
NAJC Supporting Organizational Members: 2 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Central Vancouver Island Japanese Canadian Cultural Society- Eiko Eby</li> <li>-Japanese Medical Support Network in Canada- Kiyoshi Dembo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre - Village of New Denver</li> <li>-Nikkei National Museum &amp; Cultural Centre</li> <li>-Regina Japanese Cultural Club</li> </ul>
Individual Members: 1 vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kevin Okabe</li> <li>Kiyoshi Dembo</li> <li>Terumi Kuwada</li> </ul>	



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	Keiko Miki Maryka Omatsu	
National Executive Board Members:	Lorene Oikawa, President Lynn Kobayashi, Vice President Les Kojima, Treasurer Susanne Tabata, Director Maryka Omatsu, Director Stephane Hamade, Director	
Staff:	Kevin Okabe, Executive Director Karina Uehara, National Administrator	
Observers	Paul Fujishige, Edmonton (new President) Tamara Sutherland, Edmonton Ron Shimizu, Toronto Michelle Walters, Toronto Henry Shibata	

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from the Oct 2, 2020 Annual General Meeting (Attached)
3. Call for Nominations to fill the two vacant board positions on the National Executive Board (Secretary and Director-at-Large) and review of process
4. Round Table from Member Organizations – past year, current situation, future plans
5. Update on Various NAJC Activities and Plans
  - a. Upcoming calendar
  - b. Updates about NAJC activities

1. Approval of Agenda

<b>Motion 1:</b>	To approve the Agenda as presented.		
<b>Moved by:</b>		<b>Seconded by:</b>	
<b>Result:</b>			

2. Approval of minutes

<b>Motion 2:</b>	To approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2020 AGM.		
<b>Moved by:</b>	Kelly Kaita, Winnipeg	<b>Seconded by:</b>	Roger Teshima, Calgary
<b>Result:</b>	Carried		

3. Call for Nominations to fill the two vacant board positions on the National Executive Board (Secretary and Director-at-Large) and review of process
  - \* Call by-election as 2 positions cannot be appointed
  - \* Call for nominations opens today, election in May. Eligibility: member of NAJC or a member of NAJC's member organizations for a year. Email with details coming soon.



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\* Joanne Planidin: Chair of Nomination committee

\* Terumi Kuwada: Chair of Election committee

#### 4. Round Table from Member Organizations – past year, current situation, future plans

Edmonton, Sanae Ohki, <https://ejca.org>

- Redesign the website, event management feature, communication
- Online presentations to grade 8 about Japanese culture as of January 2021
- Paul Fijishige: new President. Currently planning, 3 surveys delivered (human rights, activities, role of the board). Larger board, looking on online activities. Get more youth engagement.
- Tamara Sutherland: membership management online.

Winnipeg, Kelly Kaita

- Online membership renewal system, keep track of emails and demographics
- Using national network to reduce costs? Debate among organizations
- Use free apps to manage the site, track members and activities

Toronto, Lynn Kobayashi

- use Neon database, interface with Quickbooks
- have only one database with all the history

Calgary, Roger Teshima

- retention of personal information

Victoria, Tsugio Kurushima, <https://www.vnca.ca/>

- Online event gatherings
- Hiroshima Nagasaki 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Obon activity, no ceremony, just cleaning of the grave.
- First virtual tour of the cemetery, the guides go around and explain.
- Started to do more virtual activities.
- Presentation *On Being Yukiko*. Heritage group.
- Japanese language courses online by zoom, only 14 students.
- Virtual cultural fall fair in October, live stream, 3-hour show, culture performances pre-recorded. Hired a production with experience: very successful, 500 viewers in live stream. Usually, a major fundraiser as well. Online auction: modest profit. Good learning experience. Start planning the virtual live stream tour in June. On YouTube - <https://youtu.be/PCgdkbJLat8>

Calgary, Roger Teshima, Calgary, <https://www.calgaryjca.com/>

- Online cooking demonstration (only chef, moderator & cameraman involved) to keep contact with members.



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- Upgraded the audiovisual system for the entire centre to be simpler and friendly use, storage area, new equipment. Prepare for the future.
- Looking into *On Being Yukiko*, target young readers. Contact schools for online classes.
- Legacy project: property next to the centre. Initial stages, replace the current one, big renovation, include a few residential units.
- Revising the current practices to function better for the members.
- New Japanese immigrants. Willing to gather new members and young ones too.
- Thankful to other organizations for sharing online activities that could be shared with the members

Toronto, Kim Uyede-Kai, Toronto, <http://www.torontonajc.ca/>

- Advantage of pandemic: broaden the reach of the activities, get resource people.
- Involve with Act2racism, Hiroshima Nagasaki activity,
- Momiji offered the space to use for meetings, short on PPE.
- New Executive director in CRRF Mohammad Hashim: reconnect.
- Online events get new participants from other communities, different ages. Xenophobia, antiracism and covid with Maryka Omatsu. Arts identity and JC heritage with Michael Prior, Matt Miwa and Julie Tamiko Manning.
- Virtual town hall meeting with Mayor John Tory about banning Japanese Canadians.
- Possible relocation of Temple Bell
- Virtual tour and Q & A session of Mohawk Institute residential school in Brantford, Ontario. Involve more with indigenous people and learn more about residential schools.
- Online event: by-standard intervention training event. What to do if you witness a racist attack? How to react? Focus on the victim. Request for more training
- Digitize the Toronto Japanese Canadian history and distribute. <http://www.torontonajc.ca/japanese-canadian-redress-the-toronto-story/>
- Collaboration on reconstruction of Niagara region history
- Partnering with University of Toronto to learn about Japanese Americans experience
- Learn how to support Black Live Matter movement.
- Partnerships are welcome.

Central Vancouver Island, Eiko Eby, <http://www.sevenpotatoes.com/>

- Newsletter
- Session with Jeff Sterns
- Food focus

Whitehorse, Fumi Torigai, <http://info.jcayukon.org/>

- No gatherings. Occasional monthly zoom meetings to chitchat to keep connecting with members.
- Big project: online *On Being Yukiko* with Jeff Sterns, Lillian Maguire and Sherri Kajiwara. Present the book on January 12, 2021 by Zoom at 5 pm PST.



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- Curriculum to be presented to the government to address systemic racism. Book *On Being Yukiko* is a good tool to reach youth, start the conversation.
- Yukon government offering good incentive through New Canadians Event fund.
- Online event focus on the book *Picture Brides* translated into English. Nikkei National Museum helped with photos. Free publishing of the book. Registration information will be sent to National Office.

Winnipeg, Kelly Kaita, Winnipeg, <https://jcamwpg.ca/>

- Kelly Kaita, new president of JCAM.
- Close since March 17, economic difficulties.
- Online curb side pick up bento & ramen event, twice per month.
- New Year Eve bento boxes
- Apply government grants.
- Covid 19 Emergency fund release for members and sponsors.
- Language program with 70 children, normally around 100.
- Hiroshima Lantern for Peace in the fall.
- Youtube channel of JCAM, events on website
- Mural Japanese in Manitoba of Cindy Mochizuke.
- Mikoshi purchased for bon odori.
- Keiko and Art Miki working on history preservation online.
- Direction of JCAM, small organization. Planning to bring youth. Community survey in 2019.
- New look of JCAM website with daily updates, active in social media. Instagram and FB.

Vancouver, Judy Hanazawa, <http://www.gvjcca.org/>

- Nitobe Memorial garden: needs renovation. <https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/visit/nitobe-memorial-garden/>. GVIJCCA sent a letter to Vancouver Japanese Gardeners Association. UBC wants to work together to honor the VJGA.
- Updating the detaining list of Hastings park detention centre by a summer student. Almost 6000 people names were found in Redress documents.
- Doing a national survey about returning the name of the museum to return to Japanese Canadian National Museum, which was the founding name. Credit to Grace Thomson about bringing this issue up. Letter to get feedback and support.
- Father Gordon Nakayama issue: redress discussion between Anglican church and NAJC. Working on including this issue in the history.
- Tatsuo Kage has retired and published his book *Migration, Displacement and Redress. A Japanese Canadian Perspective*.
- Tonarigumi: financial difficulty. Building may have to be sold. Working with GVIJCCA.
- Antiracism work: designed Zoom sessions as of January 30, 4 sessions. Intergenerational dialogue project in 2021. First session about antiracism 101. Racism education specialist.
- Indigenous experience in BC: colonization, residential schools.
- Antiracism in Vancouver Downtown East side: black, indigenous, Japanese and Chinese communities. Partnership to get along, address racism and support each other.



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- Modeling minority matter: east Asian communities
- Zoom sessions for last Saturday of each month in 2021
- Bulletin committee: relationship with Toronto, ongoing project

Hamilton, Patti Simpson, <https://www.hamiltoncjcc.ca/>

- Small community helping the cultural centre.
- Trying on getting government funding for the cultural centre.
- Michael Abe may come to Hamilton for the exhibit of Landscape of Injustice.
- Thomas Fisher library of University of Toronto: Redress material from Hamilton
- Miso event canceled. Mochizuki purchased through NAJC grant.

Ottawa, Melisa Kamibayashi, <https://ojca.ca/>

- Mochizuki event canceled in person but plates of kirimochi distributed over the weekend through online system, money by e-transfer, distributed by volunteers.
- Crafts made by community members were also distributed with the mochi.
- Second round of mochi deliveries to seniors.
- *On Being Yukiko* supported, online session.
- Young leaders got together to work online version of mochizuki, coloring contest, cooking lesson online.
- Natsu matsuri, summer festival moved to Digi Natsu Matsuri. Video footage together and in between there are online quizzes. Videos about JC historical content.
- Promote other organization events.
- Caroline Ishii online teaching of comfort food. Promote her book using the hotel kitchen, making JC, cooking vegan and gluten free. Caroline's book *The Accidental Chef: Lessons Learned in and Out of the Kitchen*.
- Purchased a video camera to collect stories.
- Online craft workshop using items from home and an option to pick up the kit of materials at the centre.

JAMSNET, Kiyoshi Dembo, <https://www.jamsnetcanada.org/>

- Domestic violence workshop, in person in Ottawa or online session in Feb or March with round table discussion.
- Maybe apply for Dementia Strategy Fund from the government. With funds start dementia training, plan for 2 years.

5. Update on Various NAJC Activities and Plans

- a. Upcoming calendar
  - Online programming
  - Help promote members' events in social media
  - Open to receive ideas for national programming: fundraisers, programs, e-news, social media and website



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- Send us pictures of events
- AGM 2021: online in September
  
- b. Updates about NAJC activities
- Lynn Kobayashi, Human rights committee: thank you Keiko Miki. Translation from Fumi and Kiyoshi. New members to the committee. Human rights training to increase individual y organization capacity. Establish the HR calendar. Newcomer orientation in Japanese. Hirabayashi award in 2022. Conversations of LGBTQ panel discussion, indigenous education and black antiracism.
- Susanne Tabata: BC redress, allocation of resources towards the IFSD reports and activities with BC government. New legislation in BC gov. Ask National Council for support as report presented.
- Les Kojima: Charitable status rejected by CRA. Community development fund: only member organizations who did not apply will be eligible for the second call, deadline January 31, 2021. Eligible organizations will receive with the invitation to apply. Community Development Fund 2021 will open in April. Anglican Healing Fund Committee: first meeting between NAJC and the church in January 2021.

6. Adjournment at 9:30 pm CST

<b>Motion 3:</b>	To adjourn the Dec 16, 2020 National Council Meeting.		
<b>Moved by:</b>	Roger Teshima	<b>Seconded by:</b>	
<b>Result:</b>	Carried.		