

From: National Association of Japanese Canadians <national@najc.ca>
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To: national@najc.ca
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National Association of Japanese Canadians

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NAJC President Message for September 2021

Lorene Oikawa

My Japanese maple trees are starting to change from their summer green to golden orange, a sign of autumn approaching.

NAJC会長のメッセージ—2021年9月

ロリン・オイカワ

庭の日本楓の葉が夏の緑から黄色の混じったオレンジ色に変わり始め、秋の訪れを告げています。

September usually brings cooler weather and the change in seasons is not always appreciated. For those who have been experiencing the worst of the extreme weather, heatwaves and wildfires, fall's anticipated cooler temperatures and rains will be a welcome relief especially in British Columbia.

9月に入ると涼しくなりますが、この夏から秋への季節の変化は必ずしも歓迎されません。しかし、今年の夏の異常気象による熱波と山火事を経験した人たち、特にBC州の人たちにとっては涼しい温度と雨は大歓迎です。

BC has seen a record number of wildfires this year. In June, the entire village of Lytton was destroyed. Halfway through the wildfire season in July there were about 1,230 fires, double the average for a 10-year period. By August, the total rose to 1,536 wildfires, 860,801 hectares of area was burned, nearly 4,000 properties had been evacuated, 14,285 properties on alert, 3,573 firefighters are battling the blazes with the help of 541 out-of-province firefighters.

今年、BC州では記録的に多くの山火事がありました。6月にはリットンの町全体が山火事で焼失しました。まだ山火事シーズンの半ばの7月までに1,230件の山火事がありました。これは10年平均の2倍です。8月までに1,536件に増加し、焼失面積は860,801エーカー、4,000軒の家屋が避難対象になり、14,285軒が避難待機になりました。消火にあたった消防士は3,573人で、BC州以外から助けに来た541人と共に戦いました。

When you hear the numbers, it seems unreal until you make the connections with family and friends who live in affected areas. It became very real for me

when I found out that a colleague who moved from Surrey to Vernon was evacuated and her new house was destroyed in a fire.

これらの数字を見ただけでは現実のものとは思えませんが、家族や友達が山火事の影響を受けた知ると、その恐ろしさがわかります。私の場合がそうでした。サーリーからバーノンに引っ越した同僚が新しい家から避難し、家は焼失しました。

Every year extreme weather is getting worse because of climate change. Urban areas are also affected by heatwaves and smoky air from the wildfires. Some member organizations have a volunteer phone system to check in on seniors. I think that is an excellent idea. Not all seniors have family that can check on their wellbeing and to see that they are properly hydrating and eating. Let's take care of each other. We need more caring and kindness in the world.

毎年、地球温暖化の影響で異常気象が悪化しています。都市部も山火事の煙や熱波の影響を受けます。NAJCの会員団体のいくつかでは、このような異常気象環境下での高齢者会員の様子をボランティアが電話で確認しています。とても良いアイデアだとおもいます。高齢者の会員の中には、水分の補給が十分か、食事はしっかりとしているかなどの様子を確認してくれる家族がいない人もいます。もっとお互いに助け合いましょう。もっと助け合いと親切の溢れた世界にする必要があります。

Last month, we seemed to be returning to pre-COVID-19 normalcy. People were travelling, families were starting to meet up, and we were having some small outdoor gatherings. Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, then confirmed that we are in a fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delta variant (which may be as contagious as chickenpox) is causing a surge in the number of infections. Although almost all of the infected are those who are not vaccinated, we are hearing about some breakthrough infections

where vaccinated people have been infected.

先月、私たちの生活はCOVID-19以前の状態に戻ったように思えました。旅行をしたり、家族と会ったりしました。小グループで戸外で活動できるようにもなりました。ところがカナダの公衆衛生管テレサ・タム博士が、カナダでコロナウイルス第4波が確認されたと発表しました。デルタ株（感染力がみずぼうそうと同じ）が新規感染者を急速に増加させています。新規感染者のほとんど全員がワクチン未摂取者ですが、なかには摂取した人が感染した例もあります。

Being vaccinated is still better protection than not being vaccinated and helps reduce the severity of the infection. We need more people to get vaccinated to stop the spread and further mutations of the virus which puts us all at risk. We also need to reduce the impact on our health-care system, because health professionals and beds that are tied up with COVID-19 patients means less space and time for those with other medical issues. Please return to wearing masks, maintain distancing, keep washing your hands, and listen to health officials.

予防接種を受けることは予防接種を受けないことよりも優れた保護策となり、感染の重症度を軽減するのに役立ちます。私たち全員を危険にさらすウイルスの拡散と、さらなる突然変異を止めるために、もっと多くの人々がワクチンを接種する必要があります。そして、医療機関の負担を軽減しなければなりません。医療施設と医療従事者がコロナ患者の対応に追われると、その分だけ他の患者の対応ができなくなります。またマスクを付け、他人との距離を保ち、手を洗い、医療関係者の注意を聞きましょう。

The NAJC Annual General Meeting will be an online event which will take place on September 17, 2021. This will be our second AGM that is online. We will be conducting the business of the organization including sharing information about

our initiatives such as BC Redress and the Anglican Healing Fund. We will be announcing the recipient of the NAJC Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award. The AGM also provides an opportunity for member organizations to talk about what's happening in their communities and their group's priorities. Delegates will be able to participate and stay safe by remaining in their communities.

今年のNAJC年次総会はオンラインで2021年9月17日に開かれます。オンラインによる総会は2回目になります。総会ではBC州リドレス、アングリカン教会癒やし基金などに関する情報交換などをします。またゴードン・ヒラバヤシ人権賞の受賞者も発表します。加盟団体の近況報告やグループごとの優先順位に関する報告もあります。オンラインですから、加盟団体の代表はそれぞれの家から安全に総会に出席できます。

Next year, we will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the NAJC and the 80th anniversary of internment. We will be looking to share more stories of our communities through our different communication channels including online sessions.

来年はNAJC創立75周年、強制収容の80周年になります。オンラインや他の手段を使って、カナダ全国の日系人コミュニティーの方々からいろいろな思い出話を聞きたいとおもいます。

Make sure you are getting updates and news by signing up at <http://najc.ca/subscribe/> for NAJC e-news. Also, please continue to connect with NAJC member organizations and support local events. The list of member organizations is on the NAJC website <http://najc.ca/member-organizations/>

NAJC電子ニュースを購読して、NAJCの活動に注意して下さい。電子ニュースは <http://najc.ca/subscribe/> から申し込みできます。また、各地のNAJC加盟団体の活動にも注意し、地域のイベントを援助してください。加盟団体のリスト

はNAJCウェブサイト <http://najc.ca/member-organizations/> に載っています。

NAJC online programming is also on our website <http://najc.ca/online-programs/> where you can find new sessions and archived recordings.

Recordings are also available on the National Association Japanese Canadians YouTube channel. <https://bit.ly/3bTpbA1>

NAJCのオンラインプログラムもNAJCウェブサイト <http://najc.ca/online-programs/> に載っています。新しいプログラムの発表や過去のプログラムのビデオはNAJCのユーチューブサイト <https://bit.ly/3bTpbA1> で見るができます。

Thank you to Sarah Matsushita, Sue Doi, and Yukari Peerless, members of the Endowment Fund Committee. The committee had a difficult task to review the applications from so many talented individuals and groups from across Canada. Communications have gone out to the applicants, and we will be posting the list of who received funding on the NAJC website.

ここでNAJC寄贈基金委員会のサラ・マツシタ、スー・ドイ、ユカリ・ピアレスの皆さまに感謝いたします。委員会は数多くの才能のある個人やグループからの応募を審査するという難しい仕事をしています。最新の審査結果はすでに応募者に知らせてありますが、近々NAJCウェブサイトで発表します。

This month we will be commemorating three dates. September 6 is Labour Day and the value of workers, especially Indigenous, Black, Asian and people of colour, has not always been recognized in historical accounts. Take this opportunity to share the stories of JC workers. September 22 is the anniversary of the signing of the historic Redress agreement in 1988. September 30 is the new federal statutory holiday, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. NAJC urges people to learn about Indigenous history including the legacy of residential schools and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission.

9月には3つの記念日があります。9月6日は勤労感謝の日です。勤労の価値、特にカナダ先住民、黒人、アジア人、有色人種のカナダへの貢献は十分に認識されていません。この機会に日系カナダ人の勤労者の貢献について思いを馳せませしょう。9月22日は1988年のリドレス調印式の記念日です。9月30日はカナダの新しい法定休日、「真実と和解の日」です。NAJC会員の皆様にカナダ先住民の歴史、特に真実と和解委員会報告書の中の「行動指針」を知ってもらいたいとおもいます。

The province of British Columbia is recognizing September 30. BC's public sector employers will be honouring this day so some public services may be operating at reduced levels, most schools, post-secondary institutions, some health sector workplaces and Crown corporations will be closed. Check if your province/territory is recognizing this day and if not, encourage them to accept this call to action.

BC州では9月30日を意義あるものにするために、公共部門で働く人は通常より業務を縮小します。大部分の学校、教育機関、医療機関の一部、国営企業は休業します。あなたの州の対応を調べて下さい。対応しない場合は、この行動指針を受け入れるよう励ましてください。

The NAJC National Executive Board wishes you a safe and successful transition to fall.

NAJC全国理事会は、皆様が安全で実り多い秋を迎えることを願っております。

NEWS FROM THE NAJC

THE NAJC Human Rights Committee

Developing People and Communities

Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi, Chair NAJC Human Rights Committee

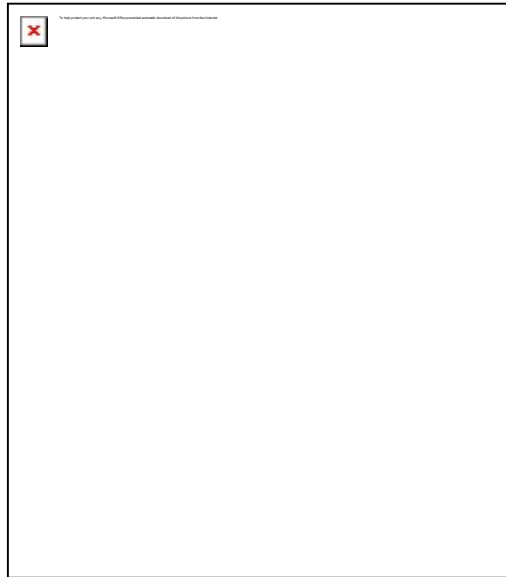
The first year of my tenure as Chair has been one of bringing more voices to the table and effectively building capacity. The committee has tripled in size, and we now have members and volunteers from every province from Quebec to B.C. and the Yukon. I am grateful for the support of the former Chair, Keiko Miki, who encouraged me and passed along important information to make my job easier.

It's been a pleasure to work with Connor Hasegawa – Montreal, Pauline Kajura - Hamilton, Jennifer Matsunaga, Ottawa - Kei Ebata, Winnipeg - April Sora, Saskatchewan - Kevin Higa, Edmonton - Judy Hanazawa and Maryka Omatsu - Vancouver and Fumi Torigai, Yukon. Our expert volunteers for webinars were Kim Uyede-Kai, Toronto and Mariko Kage, Lillooet, BC.

Year two begins on Friday, September 17th with the AGM and the presentation of the NAJC Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award at 8:00 P.M Eastern Time. With an unprecedented six nominees this year our job was a challenging one. We thank Mariko Kage, Matt Miwa and the National Executive Board for the part they played in selecting the award winner. The nominees were: Keykashan Basu (Green Hope Foundation), Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association, Shin Imai, the Noor Cultural Centre, Ron Shimizu and the

Woodland Cultural Centre. We can hardly wait to tell you a little about all these worthy candidates and announce the name of the candidate whose human rights advocacy should be known to all in our community and the community at

large.



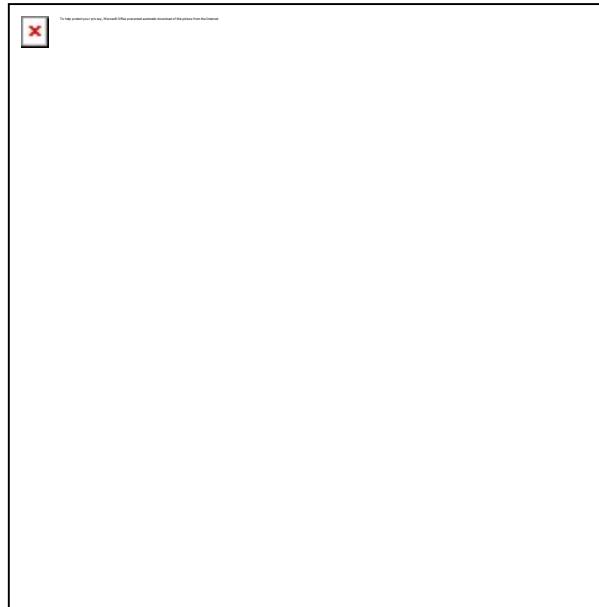
Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi (Toronto) is a sansei community leader, passionate about volunteerism and the enriching relationships that develop while working towards meaningful causes. She is guided by the desire to “turn good intentions into results”. She is NAJC VP and President of the Toronto NAJC.

Her activism includes chairing Parent Councils for 12 years to address the needs of underrepresented Asian students whose parents were refugees and immigrants, leading a team sponsoring Syrian refugees, founding a gala fundraiser for AIDS-orphans in Ethiopia and serving on fundraising committees of Fred Victor, a leader in addressing homelessness.

She has been a distance runner for 40 years, running 23 marathons including Boston placing third in her age group. She lays claim to getting the Ethiopians in Toronto running, having organized their participation in the local marathon fundraiser.

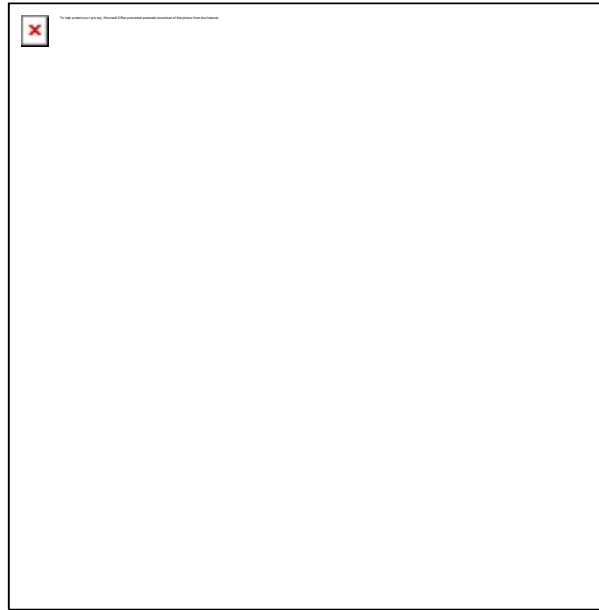
She met her husband Pat Deutscher in 1985 in a running club. Their son

Steven was with Lynn in the House of Commons on September 22, 1988, for the historic Redress Agreement. As was her mother, sister and father who was then, President of the Toronto NAJC.



We are honoured to have on our committee, Justice Maryka Omatsu. In 1992, Maryka Omatsu was the first East Asian woman appointed a judge in Canada. She was a member of the NAJC's negotiation team that won Redress in 1988. Maryka received awards for her book, *Bittersweet Passage* (1992) that documented that history and for her video, *Swimming Upstream* that set out the JC case for Redress from B.C. (2018).

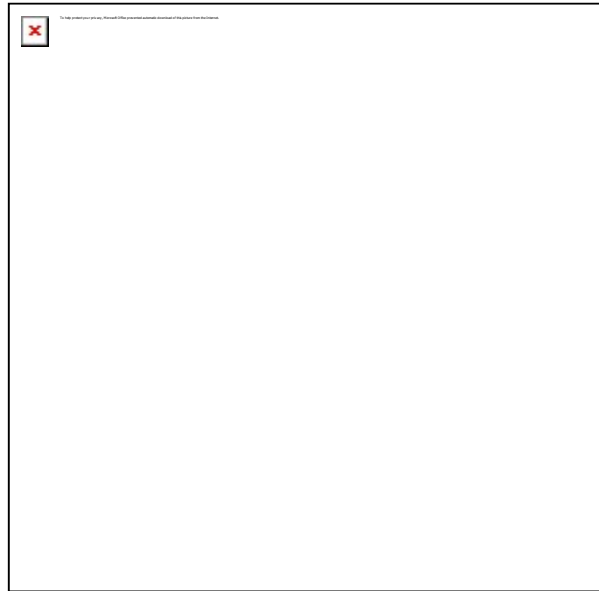
She is on the NAJC's Executive Board. Most recently Maryka has been appointed to the Canadian Race Relations Foundation's Advisory Council (2018) and the NAJC's B.C. Redress Advisory Team (2018). She has been awarded: the Order of Ontario (2015) and a Doctor of Laws, Ryerson University (2018).



Judy Hanazawa (Vancouver) was born in 1947 in Merritt, BC where her family moved after being interned in Bridge River, a so-called self-supporting camp. She grew up in Eastside Vancouver where the Powell Street prewar JC community thrived, and later graduated from UBC with a BA in Art History.

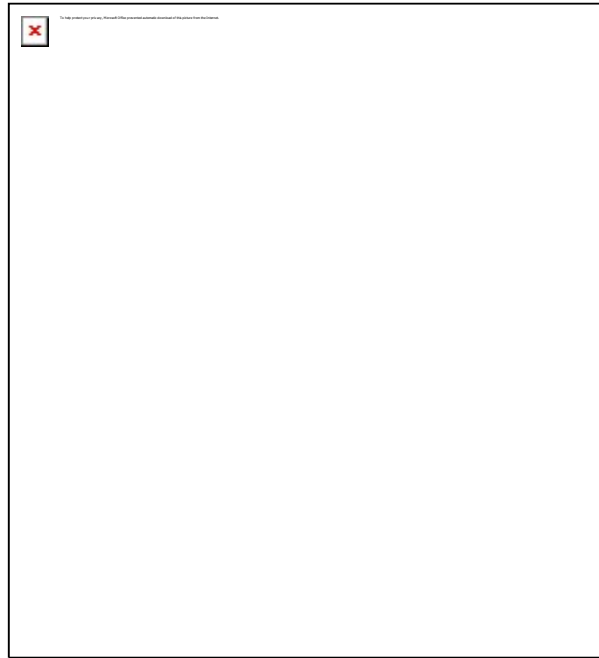
Upon marriage to her music teacher husband, she lived and worked as a rural social worker in Northern BC, and the Fraser Valley. She has a son and daughter and is grand mom to granddaughter and grandson too. After receiving federal Redress payment Judy earned a Master of Social Work from UBC in 1990 and focused on Indigenous Child and Family Service program development working with the Squamish Nation.

Judy's social justice, antiracism and human rights education evolved mainly from working with the Nation for over 25 years and witnessing the challenges to self-determination. In 1990 Judy also began her volunteer work within the Japanese Canadian community. Judy feels inspired by the human rights knowledge, commitment and activism indicated by today's NAJC Human Rights Committee and is happy to note the progress in NAJC human rights programming and national community awareness from 30 years ago.



Connor Hasegawa (Montreal) is a second-year law student at McGill University and currently serves as the co-president of the McGill Asian Law Students' Association. He is also a partner at Futurelab, a Windsor-based consulting firm; in this role, he advises clients in both the public and private sectors, across a wide range of industries, on a variety of issues related to strategy and innovation.

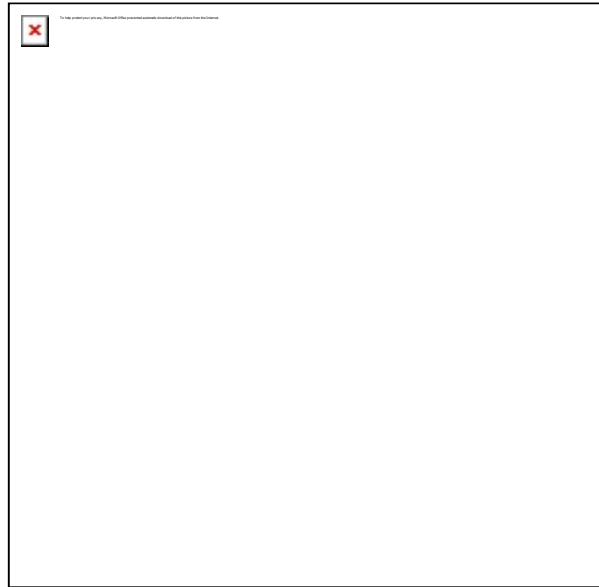
Connor completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours with Thesis) at the Odette School of Business at the University of Windsor and conducted research on leadership and organizational behaviour within innovative teams throughout the course of his degree. He has developed and taught several courses in Excel and participated in substantial Excel-related course redesign at the Odette School of Business.



Kevin Higa CPA, CA (Edmonton) is the Chief Financial Officer of Peavey Industries LP since the fall of 2016. Peavey Industries is the largest farm and ranch retailer in Canada operating 92 corporate stores and 120 dealer locations with over 2,400 employees under the banners Peavey Mart, Ace Hardware Canada and Main Street Hardware.

Currently, Kevin is a member of the Edmonton Japanese Community Associations, Committee Advocating for Racial Equality (CARE) and the National Association of Japanese Canadians, Human Rights Committee. He has been actively involved with the University of Alberta, serving as an executive member of the Alumni Council, and has held executive positions with the Business Alumni Association and member of the School of Retailing Advisory Board.

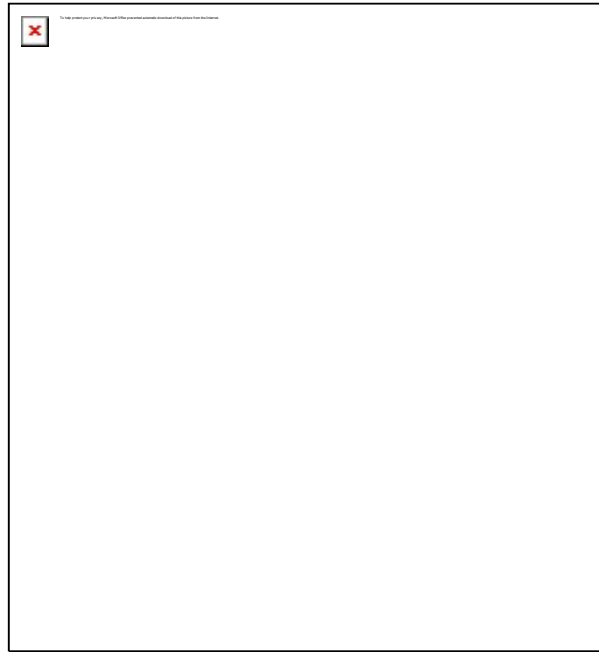
Kevin is an avid runner and triathlete competing in more than 40+ marathons and Ironman triathlons throughout Canada and the world.



Mariko Kage (Lillooet, BC) is one of our hardest working volunteers and sits on the current NAJC Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award Committee. She is a bicultural and bilingual immigrant from Japan, worked as an interpreter and a dance artist, taught Aikido for over 25 years, and volunteered for the Greater Vancouver JCCA and its Human Rights Committee from 1997-2002. As a mother of seven children and a mobilizer, she worked to facilitate cultural programs and services for Indigenous youth over the last 20 years.

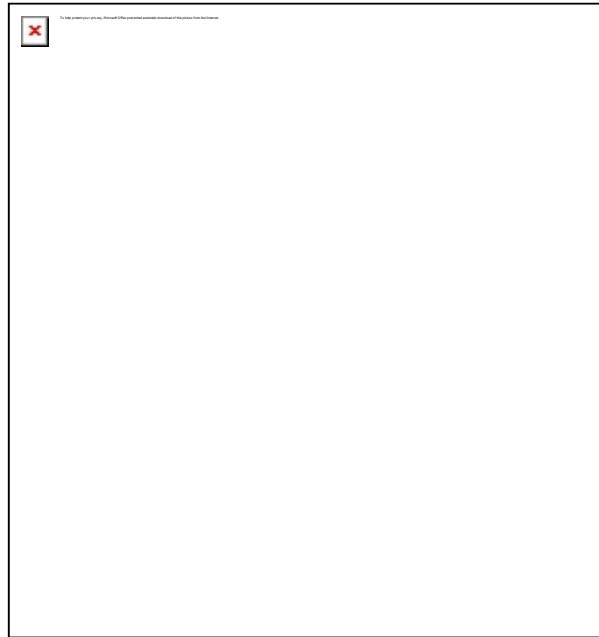
In 2012 she co-founded the Miyazaki House Society in Lillooet and spearheaded the local JC Internment Memorial Project in 2017 to honour the internment camp sites in the Lillooet region. Recently, it was Mariko's joy and honour to coordinate the publishing of her father, Tatsuo Kage's new book: "Migration, Displacement, and Redress: A Japanese Canadian Perspective".

This year, she assisted in launching the Ijyusha Outreach Project with NAJC's HRC and is pursuing her MA in Intercultural and International Communications, at Royal Roads University.



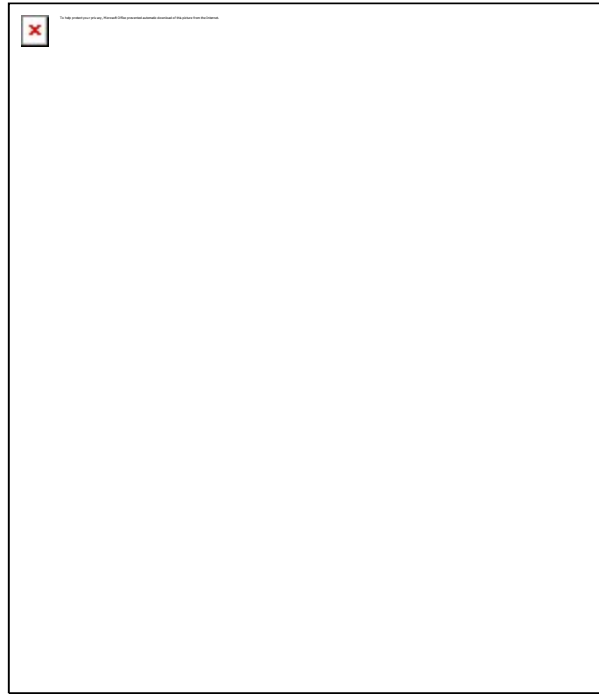
Pauline Kajiura (Hamilton) works toward social justice, equity, and inclusion in her community and workplaces. As a partner of Intersecting, she provides anti-racism and anti-oppression education and training. Currently, Pauline is Manager, Community Initiatives at the City of Hamilton. She has worked as Executive Director of Information Hamilton and Financial Coordinator of SACHA, (Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area).

Pauline is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. She has served on numerous boards and committees with such organizations as the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, YWCA Hamilton, Immigrants Working Centre, the National Association of Japanese Canadians, and the City of Hamilton's Committee Against Racism. Pauline is a sansei, holds a BSc from McGill University and also lends music performance to her activism.



Jennifer Matsunaga (Ottawa) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Ottawa, unceded Algonquin Territory. She is a sansei whose father, grandparents and great-grandparents were dispossessed, uprooted and sent to Tashme. Passionate about her family's and community's history and its ongoing effects, Jennifer engages in social justice work primarily through her role as an educator, researcher, and writer. Her research and writing examine reparations for historical injustices and reflect on themes of truth telling, assimilation, and colonization.

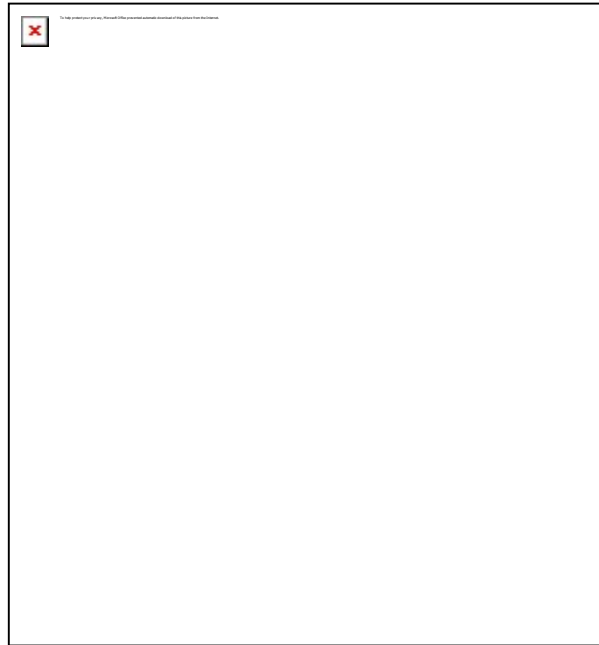
She is currently developing a project to produce a cross-community documentary podcast that will feature Japanese Canadian, First Nations, and Inuit voices around various themes. She also organizes and facilitates sharing sessions with Japanese Canadian community members who wish to share and connect with others who found records on their family members in the new Landscapes of Injustice database and who might find this experience to be emotional. Jennifer is a proud member of the NAJC's Human Rights Committee, believing in keeping the Spirit of Redress alive.



April Sora (Saskatoon) was born and raised in Scarborough, Toronto and presently resides on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis in Saskatoon. Her career has been spent working and volunteering in the immigrant and refugee sector; first as an ESL instructor in Toronto and then in her various roles with the federal government. She now works for the City of Saskatoon as the Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion Consultant.

April is committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and was drawn to the NAJC Human Rights Committee priority of supporting this work and standing beside the Indigenous peoples of Canada in their ongoing fight for land and human rights.

As a sansei April is proud of her Japanese Canadian history and the legacy of the resilience and strength of her ancestors in particular her parents, Shirley (Handa) and Shigeki Sora. This is the background that informs her work and her life. On the fun side, every Monday and Friday night you can find April practicing taiko with the Saskatoon performance group, Living Sky Taiko.



Fumi Torigai (Whitehorse YK) was born, raised, and educated in Japan. He immigrated to Canada in 1969 and earned a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education at the University of Western Ontario. Fumi has taught music for 29 years. He is the Founder and was the President of JCAY (Japanese Canadian Association of Yukon) for 9 years. Currently Fumi is the Vice president of JCAY.

Fumi recently organized and presented two sessions of the NAJC HRC series “Ijusha Zadankai”. He also translated the book “Picture Brides” by Miyoko Kudo, published by Nikkei National Museum.

Fumi has had a strong interest in social and human rights issues since his high school years. As the president of JCAY, he has assisted a number of JCAY members dealing with immigration and/or labour issues and is convinced that those new immigrants need the service of a knowledgeable and bilingual volunteer who is willing to lend them support.

NAJC Events



The Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award

Register in advance for this event:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllc-2sqj0qE9eRqd-2GGz_Ud36UluuvbLb

This event will occur just prior to our Annual General Meeting. Individuals that are not delegates for the meeting can simply leave the Zoom session after the Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award presentation is finished.

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Seeking WWII internee letter writers from Queen Elizabeth Secondary School in Surrey, B.C. and their families

University of British Columbia Library seeks WWII internee letter writers from Queen Elizabeth Secondary School in Surrey, B.C. and their families

The University of British Columbia Library has a collection of almost 150 letters, dated 1941-1988, written to Joan Parolin (née Gillis) from her Japanese Canadian friends and acquaintances, who attended Queen Elizabeth Secondary School in Surrey, B.C. with Joan. The majority of the correspondence took place from 1942 to 1946, with different friends writing from farms and work camps in Northern British Columbia, Manitoba, and Alberta. The letters provide insight into the forced dispersal of Japanese Canadians in the 1940s and gave us a poignant and sometimes heartbreaking glimpse into the life of young Japanese Canadians during this dark period.

CBC broadcast a radio documentary [“Dearest Joan...”](#) on these letters three years ago. An accompanying article, [“What's on the Hit Parade?' Rare letters show Japanese-Canadian internment through teens' eyes”](#) (posted June 11, 2018) is available online as well.

The Library is trying to find the letter writers and their families in the effort to make these invaluable resources more accessible. If you or your family member are one of the letter writers, we would like to speak to you and would be glad to share copies of the letters with you.

List of letter writers

Setsuko Fujii

Akira Fujii

Jackie Takahashi

Albert Ohama

Sonny Ohama

Emee Otsuki

Yoshuyuki Okamura

Tad Nagamori

Leo Otsuki

Sumi Mototsune

Teruko Ikeda

Masao Ujijie

Contact

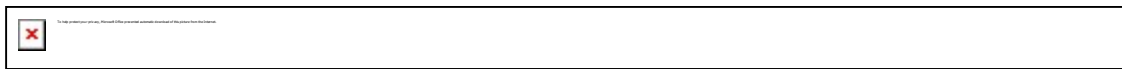
Tomoko Kitayama Yen, Japanese Studies Librarian (English and Japanese)

Telephone: 604-822-0960

Email: tomoko.kitayama@ubc.ca

Address: Asian Library, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall, Vancouver B.C. V6T 1Z2

For more information about the letter collection, please see [the description of Joan Gillis fonds](#) housed in the Rare Books and Special Collections, University of British Columbia.

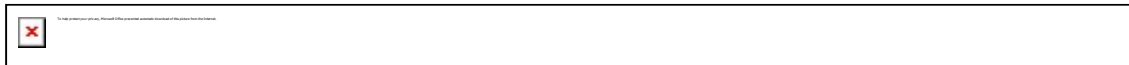


Issue 2 — The Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat Newsletter

The [second issue of the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat newsletter](#) has just been released.

This new edition includes actions taken by the Federal Secretariat alongside federal departments and different sectors of society. It focuses on what the Government of Canada and the Federal Secretariat are doing to fulfill our commitment to combat systemic racism and discrimination in all of its forms. It builds on the activities and initiatives that have been undertaken since they issued the first edition.

Three New Faces, Three New Roles at the Canadian Race Relations Foundation!



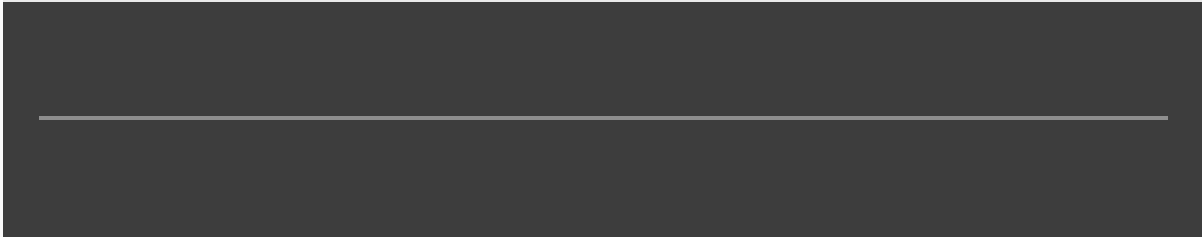
We are very excited to announce new additions to CRRF's ever-growing team! These powerful advocates will join the Foundation to bolster and expand its fight against racism and discrimination across the country. They are:

Amira Elghawaby, a human rights advocate and columnist who has worked extensively in the labour and civil liberties movements in Canada. Amira will be joining the CRRF team as its ***Director of Programs & Outreach***.

Angela Lee, a community engagement and research design specialist who has worked for 15 years in labour movements, government agencies, and advocacy organizations. Angela is CRRF's new ***Director of Partnerships & Research***.

Thoha Mahmood, a passionate communicator who has worked at the House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Thoha is our ***Communications & Events Manager***.

To learn more about our newest team members, click the button below!





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