

# 2021 Annual Report



September 2021

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
JAPANESE CANADIANS



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## About the NAJC

Established in 1947, the NAJC is the only national organization in Canada that represents the JC community. Under the umbrella of the national body, we have member organizations across Canada. The NAJC negotiated the historic Redress Settlement on behalf of all JCs who suffered injustices and acts of discrimination during World War II.

## Our Vision

*“A strong, unified community founded on diversity and committed to human rights for all, for the enrichment of Canada.”*

## Our Mission

To promote and develop a strong Japanese Canadian identity and thereby to strengthen local communities and the national organization.

– AND –

To strive for equal rights and liberties for all persons - in particular, the rights of racial and ethnic minorities.

*“With respect and gratitude for Indigenous peoples who are the traditional stewards of the lands and waters where we work and live. We acknowledge our national office is in Treaty 1 territory and that the land is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.”*



## A Message from our President

Lorene Oikawa, President



This past year has been challenging on a global level and on a very personal level. Despite the challenges, the Japanese Canadian spirit of “ganbatte” [do your best, never give up] is in our DNA and the NAJC has been able to adapt to the new normal and persevere.

We have all faced loss through the COVID-19 pandemic including loss of certainty, loss of connections, lost of income, and for some, loss of loved ones. We are speaking out against the rise of anti-Asian hate, and our sansei elders targeted with the ugly rhetoric “go back to where you came from” reminiscent of the racism in the 1940s. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples as the missing children in former residential schools are being found in unmarked graves. We urge more unity and looking out for one another. As climate change unleashes more extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves and wildfires, we ask that you look out for seniors and those with health conditions who are living alone.

For the NAJC, the challenges have reinforced our commitment to strengthening local communities, promoting and developing a strong Japanese Canadian identity, and to work to eliminate racial discrimination and promote inclusion and equity.

The pandemic has been a transformative experience. Our online programming has increased and led to expanding our audiences from across Canada. Even when it is safe to return to in-person programming we will continue with our online programming to allow for greater accessibility by a national audience.

We are pleased to see some of our member organizations who have been able to pivot to online programming and attract wider audiences. We are promoting their efforts through our website, social media and our e-newsletters. Member organizations are also able to share NAJC news with their members. With this cross promotion, we will be able to amplify our messages and increase audiences for all of our programming. We know that member organizations lost fundraising revenues due to events cancelled because of COVID-19 and we set up the COVID-19 stabilization support funding. We



will be looking at opportunities for the NAJC to help promote the fundraising efforts of our member organizations.

We know that when we work together, we can overcome challenges and support our communities. We are also continuing work on some major initiatives.

Our non-partisan talks with the B.C. government about BC Redress continue. We act on behalf of the Japanese Canadian community and keep in mind the 22,000 Japanese Canadians who were forcibly uprooted, interned, dispossessed, and exiled, and we know that only about 6,600 are with us today. Our focus is on six pillars: survivors health and wellness, education, monument, community and culture, heritage preservation, and anti-racism and acknowledgement. As of May 2021, the BC government has put an initial \$2 million toward the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund.

The Japanese Canadian Working Group joined with the NAJC to seek restitution from the Anglican Church for Japanese Canadians affected by the actions of Mr. G. G. Nakayama. Earlier this year, an agreement in principle was reached and the Anglican Church of Canada authorized a \$610,000 contribution to a Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians to be administered by the NAJC. The NAJC is working on establishing a project team to deliver the healing support.

The NAJC joined with other community groups and the University of British Columbia to organize a two-day National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism in June 2021. The forum brought together people from across generations, sectors, and the country. Bold actions, key priorities, and pathways forward to confront anti-Asian racism were identified in several sectors: education, health, justice system, media, arts and culture, housing, social services, and elder care, government, policy, and political representation, economic issues, employment and business, and grassroots organizing and coalition building. Next steps include a summary document from the forum and following up on the actions identified at the forum.

In all our work, we recognize that we must commit to reconciliation, and learn more about the history of Indigenous peoples and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We encourage everyone to take meaningful action.



Next year, 2022 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NAJC and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of internment. We are planning events including sharing stories and looking to some of our members and past presidents for some insights.

We will continue to provide communications through various channels, The Bulletin, Nikkei Voice, membership newsletter, e-news, and our social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our YouTube channel.

We can't do our work without all of volunteers on the National Executive Board. A special thank you to Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi, Les Kojima, Naomi Katsumi, Maryka Omatsu, Susanne Tabata, and Stéphane Hamade. We also want to thank all of our volunteers on our NAJC Committees. Thanks to our part-time staff, Executive Director Kevin Okabe and National Administrator Karina Uehara who support us. This summer, we welcomed Asuka Lapierre, our new contract NAJC Office Administration, to assist with our organizational communications and promotions.

We want to build our engagement with member organizations and Japanese Canadian communities across Canada. A special thank you to our member organizations and members for your support and the work you do.

Let's continue our work together for a sustainable future for NAJC and the member organizations. Our work and our voices are needed to fulfill our mission and create the inclusive, thriving society we desire.



## BC Redress Update

Susanne Tabata, NAJC BC Redress Project Director

We do this work acknowledging with respect the ongoing struggle of Indigenous Peoples throughout Canada. We stand with the survivors and families of all children who were in residential schools. We need to heed the Calls to Action from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission.

### HERITAGE + COMMUNITY & CULTURE MEETINGS

On September 2, 2021, and after burning the midnight oil, the final two pillars for BC Redress were presented to the BC Government in two back-to-back meetings: first Heritage, then Community & Culture. This full-time, behind-the-scenes effort has been aided by input and feedback from around BC on the Heritage pillar, and from BC and beyond on the Community & Culture pillar.

Attending this meeting for the BC Ministry of Attorney General was Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-racism Initiatives, Rachna Singh, along with her staff, with whom we have been working for the past five months.

Also in attendance were Ministers Hon. Katrine Conroy, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Hon. Anne Kang, Advanced Education Skills and Training, and Hon. Melanie Mark, Tourism Arts and Culture. Key DMs, ADMs, and SMAs were also in attendance from these ministries, along with representation from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Representing Heritage for the community were: Howard Shimokura, Tashme Museum; Laura Saimoto, Heritage Sites; Mayor Leonard Casley, Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC), New Denver; Mary Kimoto, Ucluelet; and Karah Goshinmon Foster, Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre (NNMCC).

Co-chair Susanne Tabata summarized the Heritage pillar, including making our request to the government for \$14.5 million in BC Redress Heritage funding. This would consist of: creation of a \$10 million Japanese Canadian Historic Sites Fund to support heritage work across BC, and especially in underserved communities, \$3.5 million for NNMCC, including the creation of digital portal and archives to improve heritage access for all Japanese Canadians, and \$1 million in funding to NIMC to support urgently required maintenance and restoration.



Following the Heritage, the community was represented at the Community and Culture meeting by: Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi, VP, NAJC & President, Toronto NAJC; Kelvin Higo, Steveston; Ramses Miki-Hanson, Young Leaders, NAJC; and Dr. Kirsten McAllister, SFU.

Co-chair Susanne Tabata then summarized the Community pillar, consisting of a request for \$20 million to create an independent Japanese Canadian Community Fund that would support programming, infrastructure, scholarships, training, arts, and the creation of community spaces.

We now begin the process of bundling the six BC Redress pillars together, and meeting with the BC government to plan next steps. Our goal is to ensure BC Redress is covered in BC Budget 2022, which would lead to an announcement in approximately March 2022.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

In the year to date, 2021 has seen concrete progress on BC Redress, both in our ability to support our community's elders who experienced the Internment Era, as well as in our discussions with the BC Government toward a BC Redress package. We have created a dedicated BC Redress website at [www.bcredress.ca](http://www.bcredress.ca), and we invite you to visit for more information.

## FIRST BIG STEP: MANDATE LETTER

A significant first step came in the form of a March 2021 meeting with the Hon. David Eby, BC Attorney General (Ministerial lead for BC Redress), Rachna Singh, Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives, along with Deputy Minister Richard Fyfe and staff. At that meeting we asked for, and received, a letter (dated April 25 2021) which committed the government to a framework of discussions on BC Redress pillars that align with the July 2020 set of requests to the Premier's office. We set an agenda for monthly meetings to discuss each topic. The NAJC was represented by Susanne Tabata, Lorene Oikawa, and Paul Kariya. We are currently working within that framework.





## \$2M GRANT INITIAL STEP FOR THE COMMUNITY

As an initial gesture of goodwill, and of commitment to caring for the health and wellness of Japanese Canadian seniors, the BC Government made an initial \$2m funding commitment in May 2021

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJcunqij9g0&t=2s>) to what has become the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund. The Fund is administered by the Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society, and is being led by Ms. Eiko Eby, with support from Ruth Coles, Cathy Makihara, Linda Kawamoto Reid, and Susanne Tabata. Many of you have contributed to the work of the Fund in identifying unmet health and wellness needs of our approximately 6,600 living survivors (Ohki, 2021), and for that we are grateful.

This important work is identifying our elders' unmet health and wellness needs, and beginning to establish a funding model and the network of relationships that will be required in order to meet them. The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund has created a website at [www.jcwellness.org](http://www.jcwellness.org), and we invite you to visit. Applications for funding opened on September 1st, 2021, and will be open for two months until October 31st, 2021. The Selection Committee is Art Miki, Susan Matsumoto, Ruth Coles, Cathy Makihara, and Eiko Eby. Funding decisions will be made in December 2021, and will be made on the basis of serving the health and wellness of as many Japanese Canadian survivors as possible.

We acknowledge that the current funding is insufficient to meet the significant health and wellness needs of our elders. To this end, our BC Redress Negotiations Committee continues to meet with the BC Government in the pursuit of a BC Redress package that meets our community's needs—especially as they relate to the forced uprooting, internment, dispossession and dispersal, along with the continuing intergenerational effects of this historical injustice, faced by our community.

## ALL SIX PILLARS PRESENTED

Of the six BC Redress pillars identified by the community—Monument, Anti-racism & Acknowledgement, Education, Health & Wellness, Heritage, and Community & Culture—formal meetings have now been held on all 6 topics.

On the BC Government side, the BC Redress process has been led by Rachna Singh, Parliamentary Secretary, Anti-Racism Initiatives. On the Japanese Canadian side, the BC Redress process has been led by Susanne Tabata, BC Redress Project Director,



and with BC Redress Negotiations Committee representation from NAJC President Lorene Oikawa, and advisor Paul Kariya.

The meetings have consisted of a series of community presentations on the six pillars above, with substantial research put into refining each pillar. We are deeply grateful to all of the community members who have put such time and care into their presentations. It is also important to acknowledge that the BC Government response to date has been positive, collaborative and serious—all relevant Ministers and staff have attended each of the BC Redress meetings.

## Monument

In working toward the creation of a monument to acknowledge, remember and honour our families directly uprooted and displaced during the Internment Era, the BC Redress Monument meeting was held on April 28th, 2021, co-chaired by Susanne Tabata, and attended by Lorene Oikawa & Paul Kariya. Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives Rachna Singh was joined by staff from the Attorney General's Ministry, and staff representation from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

The BC Government was presented with a request to establish a large scale monument in a place of importance to the BC Government, to provide a site for pilgrimage, reflection, and the ability for survivors and family members to touch, in large format, the names of the approximately 22,000 Japanese Canadians who experienced the Internment Era.

This will be a site of great importance to the community, and it was stated that it must be designed by and in consultation with the Japanese Canadian community, and in partnership with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose traditional and unceded territory any monument in or around the Legislative Precinct would stand. The site would have an overall Japanese Landscape Design.

It was also requested that the BC Government fund the mandatory research requirements in order to create a complete list of names, by disambiguating the 21,460 names from the 14,500 case files already digitized by the University of Victoria through the Landscapes of Injustice project. Landscapes of Injustice Project Director Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross and Project Manager Michael Abe supported the presentation. In addition, two areas were suggested where a monument could be placed, led by Stewart's Monumental Works owner Rob Poncelot and Luke Straith, who had scouted



the area with the BC Redress Project Director and supplied suggested areas, favouring a site on the Royal BC Museum grounds adjacent to the BC Archives.

Since this meeting, correspondence with the BC Government has narrowed the potential site options to a potential site in Victoria between Southgate Street and Academy Close, south of the formal grounds of St. Ann's Academy. Discussions are ongoing as to the feasibility of this site.

## Education

The BC Redress Education meeting took place on June 11th, 2021. Susanne Tabata co-chaired the meeting, attended by Lorene Oikawa, Paul Kariya, Art Miki, Masako Fukawa, and Mike Perry Wittingham. For the BC Government, Parliamentary Secretary Singh was joined by Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, and Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, along with staff and officials.

It was also noted by BC Redress Project Director Susanne Tabata that the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies has proposed the creation of an Art Miki Forum for Social Justice, as part of the university's pivot toward social justice education as a core focus. The proposal to create an Art Miki Forum for Social Justice was invited by the NAJC. The University is very conscious that any funds allocated to the creation of such a forum should not detract from BC Redress or from funds that will be allocated to Japanese Canadian survivors.

For the BC Government, Ministers Whiteside and Kang both expressed personal commitment to BC Redress and strong support for the Japanese Canadian community. Minister Whiteside expressed receptivity to the Japanese Canadian BC Redress Education asks, and a willingness to work with the community to explore implementation.

## Anti-Racism

The BC Redress Anti-Racism meeting took place on June 11th, 2021. Co-chaired by Susanne Tabata, the meeting was attended by Lorene Oikawa, Paul Kariya and Judy Hanazawa, along with Art Miki, Masako Fukawa, and Mike Perry Wittingham who remained on the call following the earlier Education meeting.



For the BC Government, Parliamentary Secretary Singh was joined by Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education, and Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education, along with staff and officials.

Parliamentary Secretary Singh provided an overview of the BC Government's current and planned anti-racism initiatives, including Resilience BC, race-based data collection, the Multicultural Advisory Council, and the Anti-Racism Act, likely to be tabled in late 2023 or 2024.

### Health and Wellness

Following the 2019 community BC Redress consultations, a further analysis of community feedback and subsequent consultations with Japanese Canadian service organizations and stakeholders revealed a large and growing unmet need in the provision of health and wellness services to Japanese Canadian survivors of the Internment Era.

In the subsequent development of BC Redress pillars, including the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy analysis conducted in Summer 2020, it became clear that the moral imperative of BC Redress was to meet the essential needs of Japanese Canadian elder survivors, and ensure all are able to live their lives in dignity and wellness.

Further, given the deliberate dismantling of Japanese Canadian culture and identity, and the ensuing first-hand and intergenerational trauma, it was also essential to BC Redress to create support for intergenerational wellness to include healing spaces, storytelling, gatherings to 'break the silence', where community members can come together to reclaim our culture and connect with one another to rebuild a stronger Japanese Canadian community.

The BC Redress meeting on Survivors Health and Wellness, including intergenerational wellness, took place on July 23rd, 2021, co-chaired by Susanne Tabata. Meeting was attended by Lorene Oikawa and Paul Kariya, representing the NAJC. There were two main components to the proposal: an expansion of health care services for Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society, and a Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund.

The community was represented by Ruth Coles, President of Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society (NSHCHS), Jay Hiraga, Executive Director of NSHCHS,



Cathy Makihara, NSHCHS Director & Former Executive Director, Keiko Funahashi, Executive Director of Tonari Gumi, Dr. Karen Kobayashi, Associate Dean Research and Graduate Programs, Professor of Sociology, Eiko Eby, Project Manager, Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund.

The BC Redress Health and Wellness funding request was made to government, consisting of the creation of new complex care facility at NSHCHS (\$36 million), an integrated affordable housing and childcare facility (\$15 million), and a Helping Hands Centre for outreach, respite care, and health and wellness programming for Japanese Canadian seniors (\$3.7 million).

Secondly, Susanne Tabata, BC Redress Project Director, made the request for an independent community-led Survivors Health and Wellness Fund, valued at \$5 million/year, over 10 years (\$50 million total), and providing \$4.5 million/year for survivor health and wellness funding, and \$500,000/year for intergenerational wellness.

The Fund would have a mandate to meet the health and wellness needs of Japanese Canadian survivors Canada-wide, including direct funding support for health needs (accessibility aids, home care, etc.), and community programming (outreach, health system navigation, social, meals, etc.). It would also focus on the wellness needs of their descendents, including funding for intergenerational storytelling and wellness programming—an essential legacy of BC Redress for current and future generations.

Community support letters on the importance of intergenerational wellness and trauma care were provided by: Dr. Karen Kobayashi; Judy Hanazawa, Connie Kadota, Leslie Komori, and Emiko Lashin; and by NAJC Young Leaders Stephane Hamade, Ramses Miki-Hanson, Carolyn Nakagawa, Carmel Tanaka, and Lisa Uyeda.

Additionally, Dr. Jay Slater, Chair of Vancouver Division of Family Practice, provided a letter supporting investment in home-based primary care, and especially for those elders who are experiencing frailty, in line with the HomeViVE (Home Visits to Vancouver's Elders) model that is being piloted in Vancouver, within which he is a practicing physician.

For the BC Government, Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives Rachna Singh was joined by Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Parliamentary Secretary of Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care Mable Elmore, along with staff and officials.



Our community's health and wellness needs are real and urgent, and our community made a strong moral case, alongside a credible, competent plan for addressing these unmet needs. In response, Minister Dix spoke very supportively of the Japanese Canadian community, and did not appear surprised nor deterred by the scale of the BC Redress Health and Wellness request.

The full report will be published in 2021 (Tabata/Noble, 2021).

## CONCLUSION

To date, all government ministers in attendance, as well as the Premier himself, have expressed their support for the Japanese Canadian community, and for the BC Redress process.

This series of presentations, government responses, and refinement of our BC Redress pillars is building toward the creation of a comprehensive BC Redress package.

Our intent is to deliver the full BC Redress package to the BC Government in Fall 2021, and to conclude any negotiations in time for our BC Redress package to be included and announced in the next BC Budget in Spring 2022.

Many of you have contributed to bring us to where we are today, and we are grateful for your contributions. We still have work to do, and we are honoured for the opportunity to do this work on behalf of our entire Japanese Canadian community.

Thank you for trust and your support.

Sincerely,

Susanne Tabata, on behalf of the BC Redress Project team

BC Redress Negotiations Committee: Susanne Tabata, Lorene Oikawa, Paul Kariya;  
with Art Miki & Maryka Omatsu as Honorary Co-Chairs

For more information check out: [bcredress.ca](http://bcredress.ca)

Susanne Tabata is the BC Redress Project Director for the National Association of Japanese Canadians and this is a full-time volunteer commitment. She is taking the lead in community relations, developing, refining & writing the six BC Redress pillars of: seniors' health & wellness; anti-racism; commemoration; education; heritage preservation; community & culture. Susanne is working across community-based organizations, stakeholders who implement programs and services, ad-hoc groups, and the BC government. She is helping steer the Nikkei Seniors Health Care & Housing Society \$2 million JC Survivors Health and Wellness Fund. She is a full-time caregiver for her 95 year old Steveston-born nisei father, Susumu Tabata.



## Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians Update

Les Kojima, Chair, Anglican Healing Fund Committee

The newest committee of NAJC is the Anglican Healing Fund Committee. This committee was formed only two years ago, after considering a request from the Japanese Canadian Working Group (JCWG). The JCWG was originally formed following enquiries by the Human Rights Committee of the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association regarding sexual abuses allegedly perpetrated by the late Anglican minister Gordon G. Nakayama. As a result of tireless efforts by the JCWG, the Anglican Church of Canada in 2015 issued a public apology to the members of the Japanese Canadian community affected by Mr. Nakayama's actions. Better late than never, the apology was made more than 20 years after Mr. Nakayama confessed in writing to the Archbishop of Calgary of his "sexual bad behavior . . . to so many people" now believed to include hundreds of Japanese Canadian boys.

In its 2015 apology, the Anglican Church committed to "participation in a healing and reconciliation process with the members of the Japanese Canadian community who were harmed by Mr. Nakayama." Subsequently, the Anglican Church clarified that it did not consider an ad-hoc, non-legal entity such as the JCWG to be a valid representative of the Japanese Canadian community harmed by Mr. Nakayama. Accordingly, the JCWG approached NAJC with its request to be absorbed into a committee of the NAJC.

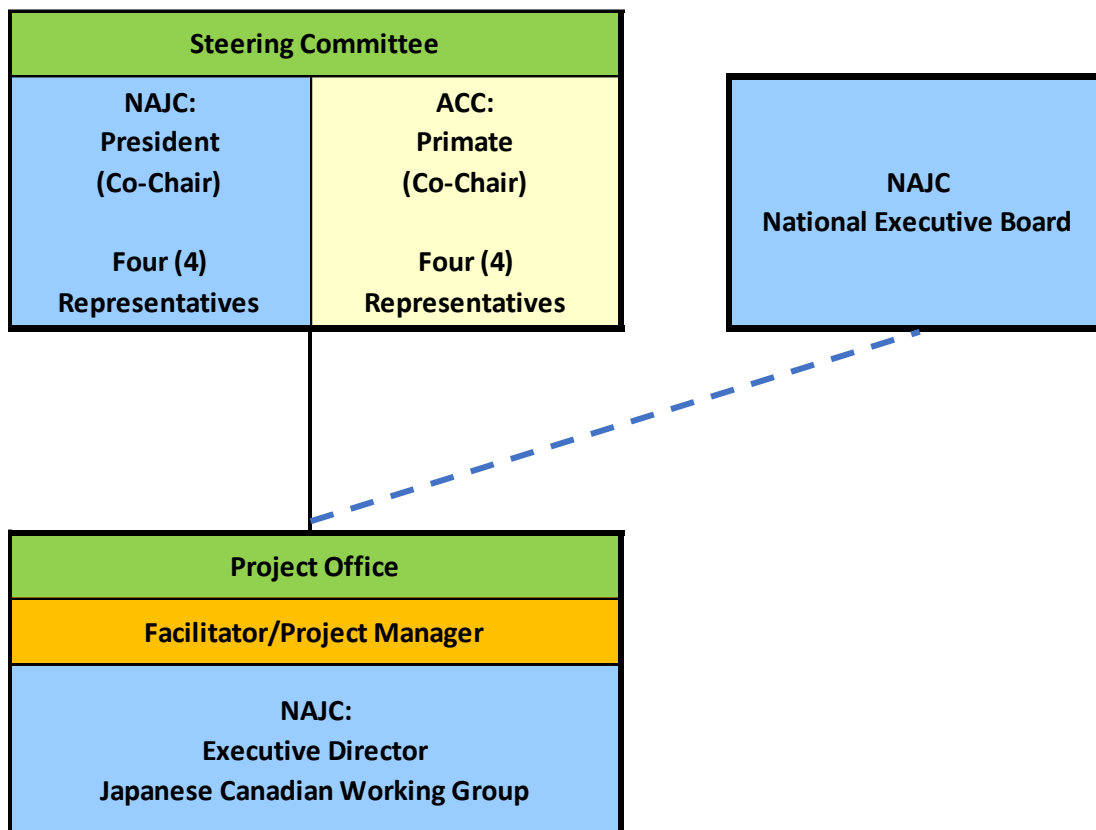
The Anglican Healing Fund Committee of NAJC consists of the JCWG plus Art Miki\*, Keiko Miki\*, Kevin Okabe\*, and Les Kojima\*. The JCWG includes Judy Hanazawa\*, Connie Kadota, Emiko Lashin, Wendy Matsubuchi-Bremner\*, Larry Okada, Naomi Shikaze and Peter Wallace\*. Asterisks denote members of the NAJC team negotiating with the Anglican Church of Canada. The committee is indebted to legal counsel freely provided by David Paterson.

In March 2021, NAJC and the Anglican Church of Canada jointly announced that an agreement in principle had been reached to establish a Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians. The Healing Fund is to be administered by NAJC and will be used to provide therapeutic counselling, educational grants, healing gatherings and community education, primarily for the remaining survivors of the clergy sexual abuse, the families and descendant families of persons harmed by Mr. Nakayama, and other members of the community affected by Mr. Nakayama's actions. The joint announcement indicated that the sum of \$610,000 had been authorized by the church, and that additional sums



may be contributed to the Healing Fund in future. The announcement also indicated that the Anglican Church had additionally agreed to finance the costs of a Facilitator/Project Manager to be jointly selected by the Church and NAJC to lead the project team being formed to deliver the healing support.

A formal legal agreement was negotiated and has now been signed by the Anglican Church and the NAJC. In addition, while the Terms of Reference for the Facilitator/Project Manager had been agreed and a preferred candidate nominated by NAJC, this key position had not been formally filled. NAJC anticipates that these tasks shall be completed shortly. The implementation arrangements negotiated with the Church provide for the Church and NAJC to “walk together” in delivering healing support through a governance structure that is depicted schematically below. In the coming weeks and months, the Steering Committee shown below shall be formally constituted and shall meet to approve the work plan of the Project Office, which will enable the actual work of the Healing Fund to begin. Thereafter, the Steering Committee will monitor the quarterly progress reports of the Project Office. The agreement has a five (5) year term.







## Our Core Mission: Human Rights Committee (HRC)

Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi, Vice President and Human Rights Committee Chair



In considering a response to the tragic revelations of unmarked graves at Residential Schools the HRC was asked to consult with our friends in the Indigenous community about our messaging. Norm Leech wrote, “ I have not read the letter of support but simply trust that it is sincere and authentic. Acting from a place of love is preferable to acting from a place of fear. Beyond that, asking the entire Indigenous community for a guarantee of safety, would be less than helpful.” We would do well to deeply consider the wisdom of this former chief of the T’it’q’et First Nation. Developing people and community requires trust in the good faith of others, a principle that should not be outweighed by hierarchy and positional leadership.

### MEMBERS AND MEETINGS

The first year of my tenure as Chair of the Human Rights Committee has been one of bringing more voices to the table and effectively building capacity. The committee has tripled in size, and we now have representatives from every province from Quebec to British Columbia and the Yukon.

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.

Our meetings are open to guests and observers. Presentations were made by Ramses Miki-Hanson, Terumi Kuwada, Mohammed Hashim, ED of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and Sandy Yep of the Asian Canadian Educators Network (ACEnet). Guests have included our former Chair, Keiko Miki, Paul Fujishige, Roger Teshima and Tsugio Kurushima. Please let me know if you would like to join one of our monthly meetings as an observer or presenter.



## REMEMBERING GORDON HIRABAYASHI - Member organization outreach in action

Another capacity building strategy was to work more closely with member organizations. The rewards of this were notably achieved in our outreach to the Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA). The HRC invited the EJCA to co-sponsor the *Remember Gordon Hirabayashi* event. The original intent of the event was to advertise the **NAJC Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award**. As Hirabayashi, recipient of the *Presidents' Medal of Freedom*, spent most of his years in Edmonton we felt it a perfect opportunity to include the EJCA.

We arranged for playwright, actor, and Ottawa Japanese Community Association (OJCA) Vice President Matt Miwa to read from Jeanne Sakata's play on Hirabayashi, *Hold These Truths*, and asked Jeanne Sakata to appear at the webinar. We also had Past and Present, EJCA President's Takashi Ohki and Paul Fujishige say a few words about Hirabayashi and their organization. Our hope to spark interest in Hirabayashi's contribution to Human Rights in Canada and the U.S. resulted in a bonfire! Plans are underway to stage the play in Edmonton, other cities and towns in Alberta and in Toronto. Stay tuned for information on how your organization can get involved in this exciting endeavour. The Human Rights Committee will support the play by providing historical context and human rights commentary.

## DR. GORDON HIRABAYASHI HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD – and the winner is . . .

I am pleased to announce that we have six contenders for the NAJC Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award. Mariko Kage and Matt Miwa will join me as the prescribed, three-member selection committee. The winner will be announced at the AGM on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all those who took the time to submit the nomination papers.

## IJUSHA OUTREACH

Two successful Ijusha Outreach sessions were the result of numerous and lengthy discussions begun last summer, with a sub-committee that was led by Fumi Torigai and included Mariko Kage, Maryka Omatsu, Judy Hanazawa and Kevin Okabe. The sessions were conducted entirely in Japanese. Fumi, has been an outstanding HRC member and is due a big round of applause.



At the second of the Ijusha Zadankai series, thirty-plus attendees with diverse experiences, backgrounds, knowledge, and skills exchanged opinions on the theme, Racism in Canada. Experiences of racism/discrimination, even violent attacks were shared as well as the aftermath of anxiety and fear. Worries about speaking Japanese in public arose as well as questions on how to teach children about racism in general and racism against Indigenous peoples.

Discrimination due to socio-economic status, education, gender, religion, sexual orientation was acknowledged as universal, but some felt that in looking at Japan from a Canadian perspective, Japan was a far less tolerant place.

There was a strong desire to improve relationships and mutual understanding with Canadian-born Japanese Canadians of all generations in order to work together to make Canada stronger. A comment that there seems to be deep mistrust between Japanese Canadians and Ijusha begged the question that if these two groups cannot get along, how we can expect others to do so . This is a challenge that is congruent with the NAJC's vision and sets the stage for important discussions to come.

#### VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE MOHAWK INSTITUTE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Building on the success of this Virtual Tour of this Brantford site, first held by the Toronto NAJC - the HRC held its own tour with the help of Kim Uyede-Kai, VP of the Toronto NAJC. The insight we gained through this tour helped prepare us to better understand the depth of the sorrow and trauma felt by Residential School survivors, their families and communities. The Tour is the work of the *Woodland Cultural Centre's Save the Evidence Campaign*.

The NAJC was one of eight Japanese Canadian organizations, two ally organizations and nearly 500 individuals that have endorsed or signed the *Open letter to Japanese Canadians and their Allies in Canada to support Indian Residential School Survivors* an Ad Hoc community effort that launched on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The letter was conceived of by HRC member Jennifer Matsunaga who has acquired deep knowledge of Indigenous issues in her studies leading to her Ph.D. in Sociology.

The Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba (JCAM) response of creating Senbazuru received CBC coverage and inspired Toronto Elders to begin creating a Senbazuru for the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School which will be presented in September.



## PRIVILEGE, ANTI-OPPRESSION AND RACISM

Our committee and volunteers took part in an exceptional session led by Cole Gately of Intersecting.ca. Cole is an adult educator with extensive experience in facilitation with individuals from diverse backgrounds. The scope of his experience includes trans inclusion training. His MA thesis, 'Solidarity in the Borderlands of Gender, Race, Class and Sexuality: Racialized Transgender Men' can be found online. We examined our social location, areas of privilege and oppression and how they intersect to make us unique human beings. It was an exceptional team building, bonding event for the committee. We plan to offer this session to our members in the next year with Pauline Kajura as a co-facilitator.

## ACT2END RACISM

Since April of 2020, Judy Hanazawa and I attended close to 70 meetings of our this NAJC partner organization led by the dynamic Teresa Woo-Paw. The experience led to deep learning about the histories and challenges facing other Canadians of Asian descent. My personal highlight was sitting on the committee overseeing production of four video PSA's covering micro-aggressions, yellow peril and two approaches to the model minority construct. Led by Karen Cho, filmmaker-producer of "In the Shadow of Gold Mountain" and two all-Asian film crews the experience let to intergenerational learning. The videos are provocative with a firm grounding in the history of Asian Canadians. The Asian Canadian Educators Network (ACEnet) has produced an excellent discussion guide to accompany the videos.

## COMING SOON, THE BEST OF THE BEST

Great work in the area of Human Rights has been happening across the country and we have been listening and learning. A sub-committee has been working on developing a series of events for the upcoming year. The Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens Association (GVJCCA) **Anti-Racism Series** was stellar, and we hope to incorporate elements of this into our program. As well the **Being Queer and Japanese** webinar hosted by the OJCA and moderated by Melisa Kamabayashi and Matt Miwa received high praise and calls for follow-up. The launch of the teaching edition of **Challenging Racist B.C.** was another standout in this year of living virtually.



The activities of the past year are the building blocks of a Human Rights Symposium to be held in Toronto in the late fall of 2022. This symposium will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NJCCA/NAJC which was founded in Toronto on Labour Day weekend of 1947.

Thank you to the committee and to all the new friends who made this year a remarkable one in so many ways.

*WATER*

*Living, Laughing, Tumbling Liquid Life  
Waterfalls, Brooks and Streams  
These are Highways for Life's Dreams*

*- Duke Redbird*



## Arts, Culture and Education

Susanne Tabata, NAJC Director and Arts, Culture and Education Chair



### BACKGROUND

Arts Culture Education known as ACE, started out 4 years ago to build the Japanese Canadian Artists Directory, [japanesecanadianartists.com](http://japanesecanadianartists.com). This partnership project connected Powell Street Festival, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre's Arts Committee and the NAJC ACE Committee.

Funded by the Canada Council (20K) and the NAJC (10K), this project was powered by a committee of Terry Watada, Sally Ito, Carolyn Nakagawa, John Endo Greenaway, with Emiko Morita, John Ota, Bryce Kanbara and Susanne Tabata forming the steering committee. The initial content was taken from Aiko Suzuki's 1994 print version of the artists directory, and then we expanded it from there. Powell Street Festival managed the directory until this year, and now the directory is managed by the NAJC.

Today the directory is accessed by thousands of people in Canada, the US, and Japan. It is a very useful on-line resource.

### CURRENT 2020-2021

#### Bitter Sweet Trail

Emerging documentary filmmaker Kenji Dyck (Sally Ito's son) worked with David Iwassa and Linda Reid to create a film about Japanese Canadians and the Sugar Beets based on a bus tour held before the pandemic! ACE provided mentorship. We congratulate Kenji for working with such limited resources (\$500.00) to make this film.



## In Conversation

ACE did a set of zoom 3 Artist Talks. Sally Ito moderated the talk with Grace Eiko Thomson; John Endo Greenaway moderated the talk with Terry Watada; and Kunji Ikeda moderated a conversation with young artists Kanon Hewitt, Shion Skye Carter, Mayumi Lashbrook, and Morgan Yamada.

These were very well attended.

## Support for the Arts Directory

This year the ACE committee supported Yukari Peerless to be the content manager of the directory and paid her an honorarium to do this work out of our annual budget (5K).

## Digital Now Grant for Matt and Julie

The committee also supported the application of Matt Miwa and Julie Tamiko Manning for the 100K Digital Now grant, which is inspired by the Japanese Canadian Artists Directory to connect legacy artists with emerging artists in digital works. We congratulate Matt Miwa and Julie Tamiko Manning on their successful grant application, and are thrilled that Yukari Peerless will be working with them on this project.

## Artists Symposium September 16,17, and 18, 2022.

For the past three years, University of Victoria's Pacific and Asian Studies Professor Cody Poulton and Susanne Tabata have talked about hosting a symposium for Japanese Canadian artists. With key input from John Ota, we drafted a solid MOU, and are now in partnership with the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives and the NAJC Arts Committee to host the "Gei Symposium" – for and by Japanese Canadian artists. We hope the commitment from UVic and the NAJC will support the basic costs of the conference. This symposium will be held September 16, 17, 18, 2022 at the Gorge Park Pavilion in Esquimalt.

We are very grateful for the great amount of work that Emiko Muraki put into the Canada Council application for a sector development grant for the symposium. Emiko was assisted by Sally Ito. The committee awaits the upcoming decision for the 50K grant and if unsuccessful will apply again in November. Emiko is a valuable member of



the committee, currently defending her PhD, and will be taking a break from the committee for the next few months. Good luck Emiko!

The committee is beginning programming and has engaged Kunji Ikeda to be the Programming Director to work with the Committee. He will be assisted by the entire committee, and in particular Melisa Kamibayashi, who has provided input for some fresh programming ideas. This is a strong group of creative professionals and we are certain that Kunji will curate a dynamic program that adheres to the overall values

Basic planning of the symposium is to have a 3-part field trip of Ross Bay Cemetery, the history of Nikkei in Victoria, and the history of the Takata Tea Garden on September 16th, followed by the opening procession which would involve the participation of local First Nations and the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (TBC). Two days of programming at the Gorge Park would follow on September 17th and 18th.

Finally, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria will be presenting a major exhibition of Japanese Canadian Art, guest curated by Bryce Kanbara. Curatorial support will be provided by the Gallery and the exhibit will run at least 3 months. Work is about to begin on this exhibit. The opening of the exhibit will take place on Saturday September 17th, so symposium participants and others interested in the exhibit will be able to attend this event.

The Symposium will be given logistics support from the Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, Michael Abe.

ACE committee is strong committee of Bryce Kanbara, John Ota, Sally Ito, Emiko Muraki, Yukari Peerless, Melisa Kamibayashi, Kunji Ikeda and Susanne Tabata.





## Young Leaders Committee

Stéphane Hamade, NAJC Director and Young Leaders Committee Chair



The Young Leaders' Committee works on issues of importance to our youth and create programming for the youth of the Japanese Canadian community.

We have received several applications for the YLF this year and we look forward to seeing the results of their work. This year we organized events over zoom for members of community and for Japanese Canadian youth to get to know each other better.

- We organized a Zoom panel Privilege and Oppression where we discussed intersecting identities of gender, race, and sexuality can influence how we relate to one another as Japanese Canadians. We followed up with two panels where we were able to have more in depth discussions on the topic.
- We organized two Zoom trivia sessions for Japanese Canadian youth, where we were able to meet youth across the country and learn fun facts.
- We also organized a virtual dinner social for Japanese Canadian youth on

This year we have seen growth in our committee, and we look forward to continuing to work on more virtual events for the community. Thank you to our committee members: Alex Okuda-Rayfuse, Alex Miki, Chad Pickerell, Hannah Mariko Bell, Jane Komori, Kayla Isomura, Téa Miyanaga, Ramses Miki-Hanson, and Jun Cura-Bongolan.



## Finances

Les Kojima, Treasurer and Audit and Review Committee Chair

### FINANCIAL PICTURE AT-A-GLANCE



The audited financial statements are shown in Appendix 1 of this report. The busy reader interested in the big picture should look for two figures in the audited financial statements. On the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets, the “bottom line” is described as “(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses for the year.” Note that for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, total revenues exceeded total expenses by \$674,186. This contrasts sharply with the deficiency in 2020 of \$297,962—a swing of close to \$1,000,000. This is almost entirely attributable to the drastic drop in the stock market in February 2020 leading to investment losses last year, and to the strong recovery throughout the 2021 fiscal year resulting in significant investment income this year.

It should be noted that in each of the 17 fiscal years prior to 2020, NAJC’s “bottom line” was negative. The deficiency was greater than \$115,000 in each of the 5 fiscal years before 2020, and between \$60,000 and \$100,000 in each of the 11 years before that. In other words, NAJC was steadily running itself into the ground through unsustainable operations. The bottom line financial results for 2021 happily reversed that trend, by a large amount.

The second figure that a busy reader interested in the big picture should look for is found on the Statement of Financial Position. There, one can see that NAJC’s portfolio investments as of March 31, 2021 were \$4,874,129. It cannot be discerned from the audited financial statements, but this value is very close to the amount of investments that NAJC should have been holding at March 31, 2021 if it had invested and inflation-protected the amounts originally contributed by the Redress Foundation back in the early 1990’s. (NAJC tracks the original contributions and calculates hypothetical inflation-protected balances using changes in the Canadian consumer price index each year.) NAJC cannot legitimately claim to have been responsible stewards of the funds transferred to it by the Redress Foundation over recent decades. However, it is in a position as of March 31, 2021 to do so going forward, starting from a base that reflects the original contributions.



## AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

NAJC is fortunate to have an exceptionally strong Audit and Review Committee. It consists of Ken Teramura (Winnipeg), Ryan Sakuye (Toronto) and Ryan Mark (Calgary), is chaired by Treasurer Les Kojima and supported by Executive Director Kevin Okabe. Four of these five individuals are professional accountants. The NAJC bylaws require the committee to meet at least once a year; the committee has been meeting at least quarterly. The initial priorities of the committee were (1) to address the timeliness of the audited financial statements and (2) to explore the possibility of registering for charitable status.

For the second consecutive year, the final audited financial statements have been approved by National Executive Board in time to be presented at the AGM. Credit is due to Kevin Okabe and Karina Uehara for migrating the accounting records to Quickbooks Online and keeping up-to-date, accurate accounts throughout the year. NAJC should expect to receive the audited financial statements to be presented at AGMs as a matter of routine going forward.

In January 2021, the Audit and Review Committee recommended to National Executive Board that the NAJC application to register as a charity be withdrawn. The committee's recommendation was based on correspondence with the Canada Revenue Agency suggesting that the purposes of NAJC as set out in its Articles of Continuation were too broad and vague to qualify for charitable registration. The purposes of the organization are deliberately broad, in order to provide maximum flexibility to NAJC in carrying out activities. However, that necessarily means that the wording used does not restrict NAJC's activities exclusively to those that are considered charitable at law. The committee also noted that CRA did not appear to have any difficulty in considering the activities carried out by NAJC, including "political" activities such as BC Redress and the work of the Human Rights Committee, as being charitable activities. Finally, the committee noted that there are no negative consequences to withdrawing the application. The application and the withdrawal remain confidential, and NAJC may re-apply at any time in the future.

Over the next 12 months, the priorities of the Audit and Review Committee are (1) to address the quality of the audited financial statements, (2) to update the NAJC investment policy, and (3) to formulate a new spending policy for NAJC.

On the quality of the audited financial statements, the committee will explore with the auditors possible alternative financial reporting presentations that may be simpler and



easier to understand. The committee will also explore with the NAJC investment management firm where updates to the NAJC investment policy (last updated in 2017) may be desirable. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the committee will consider a new spending policy that will determine the amount of investments that may be spent by NAJC in any given year while still ensuring that over the long term, the investment portfolio is inflation-protected. This policy will include a mechanism or formula to even out short-term market fluctuations in order to provide for relatively stable total annual budgets for NAJC, and will hopefully result in more timely determinations of the total budget “envelope” for the coming fiscal year. In all cases, the committee deliberations will be brought to National Executive Board for approval before implementation.



## Constitution, By-laws and Governance

Maryka Omatsu, NAJC Director and Constitution and Resolutions Committee Chair



The Constitution and Resolutions Committee (CRC) members are: Lynn Deutscher Koyabashi (Toronto), Keiko Miki (Winnipeg), Joanne Planidin (Calgary) Kevin Okabe (Kananaskis), Ramses Miki-Hanson (Saskatoon), Fumi Torigai (Whitehorse), Laura Saimoto (Vancouver), and Maryka Omatsu (Vancouver).

The Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month.

We inherited a to do list of 15 matters from the NEB and previous CRC. For this years AGM, the CRC has prepared 3 constitutional by-law amendments for approval. They are:

- Filling vacancies on NEB;
- Permanent seat on NEB for Young Leaders Committee;
- Young Leaders Committee representatives

Next year, the CRC will:

- prepare bylaws to bring the NAJC into the electronic age: motions and notification by email, electronic voting;
- reducing notice times for nominations etc;
- elections: more transparency and running for multiple positions;
- approval of the Policy and Procedures Manual; and
- communications strategy.

We welcome new members and input from the NAJC member organizations and individual members.



*Constitution and Resolutions Committee during virtual committee meeting*



## Regarding our Membership

Naomi Katsumi, Secretary and Membership Committee Chair

### Membership Year 2020-2021

The membership remained stable composing of thirteen full member organizations, five supporting organizations and thirteen individual members, 2 fewer individual members as of August 2021.

Due to the resignation of the Chair of the Membership Committee Kiyoshi Dembo in the fall of 2020, the Committee had met once on September 17, 2020 and once again on February 2, 2021 when an interim Chair, Stephane Hamade was appointed by the National Executive Board (NEB). Since the Director's position remains vacant, the newly elected Secretary of the NEB is the current Chair of this Committee. The Membership Committee would like to thank Kiyoshi Dembo and Stephane Hamade for their support to continue the activities of the Membership Committee.

There were a number of main topics of discussion including:

- Decision was made on to distribute volunteer appreciation cards and gifts to 53 volunteers were to receive a gift card and a gift certificate redeemable through the online gift shop of the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre.
- Correspondence was received from the Canadian Cultural Centre of Montreal and the Kelowna Lake-Country Japanese Culture Society regarding their interest in NAJC membership, however due to COVID and other issues, this was not purposed during this membership year.
- The Membership Committee discussed the possibility of capacity building initiatives for member organizations such as finance workshops, surveys or polls on various areas of interest, potential on-line programming. The list of initiatives developed will be discussed further at future meetings and the Committee plans to present these ideas to the membership in the upcoming year.

If any member organizations have ideas for the Capacity Building Initiative, we welcome your ideas. Please contact us at: (Kevin, does the membership committee have their own e-mail address? If so, it should go here, if not use [secretary@najc.ca](mailto:secretary@najc.ca)



## Office and Administration

Kevin Okabe, Executive Director and Karina Uehara, National Administrator



I am sure that we will all remember back to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when widespread lockdowns were implemented in an attempt to contain the virus. The NAJC also had to respond to the threat of the pandemic, shutting down our offices, cancelling our in-person meetings and events and pondering what we should do with our Endowment Funds amid a plummeting stock market.

### Adapting to our Circumstances

While the NAJC has been utilizing Zoom for some time now, its importance had been heightened due to the restrictions placed on in-person gatherings. Not only have National Executive Board meetings been held using Zoom, but we are now holding all of our general membership meetings (and Annual General Meeting) on that platform. Our committees are also making extensive use of the platform. We also held one-on-one Zoom sessions with many of our member organizations as part of our outreach during this past year.

We also provided direct funding to many of our member organizations and hosted collaborative discussions to allow organizations to share their issues, concerns and solutions during this challenging period.

### Transforming Program Delivery

The Internet has allowed the NAJC to transform its program delivery by allowing us to organize various meetings, seminars, lectures and webinars via the web. Some of these events attracted some very large audiences, allowing us to connect with grassroots members of the Japanese Canadian community from across the country.

The pursuit of a wide variety of programming to meet the continually evolving and changing needs of our community is an ongoing goal for the NAJC. This evolution has been accelerated due to the pandemic, but as reflect upon the past year, we have seen a tremendous increase in our program offerings, a growing interest in our committees and increased outreach to our population. We are definitely looking forward to the day when face-to-face interactions can resume though!



## Maintaining a Legacy through Funding

It is the intent of the Redress Foundation and the NAJC to ensure that the benefits realized from the 1988 Redress Agreement continue to benefit and enhance the development of the Japanese Canadian community and its members into the new millennium.

Email   newsletters   Facebook	Twitter	Instagram

Type of Application	Applications Approved	Approved Grants
CD	9	\$32,500.00
SEAD	4	\$7,000.00
TOTAL	13	\$39,500.00





## SEAD and Cultural Development Fund

Lorene Oikawa, Endowment Funds Committee Chair

The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) was entrusted with funds from the 1988 Redress Agreement. Through the Japanese Redress Foundation, the NAJC received \$650,000 to establish a grant program. The Endowment Funds was established and the NAJC administers the Sports, Education, Arts Development (SEAD) and the Cultural Development (CD) Funds.

From inception, we have issued over \$1 million in grants.

The members of the 2021 Endowment Fund Committee include: Lorene Oikawa (Chair, NAJC President), Sarah Matsushita (Burlington), Sue Doi (Vancouver), and Yukari Peerless (Victoria).

New initiatives undertaken this past year include social media content developed by the committee to promote the fund, FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), and an online information session for applicants. The session was recorded and posted for applicants. These initiatives were well-received by applicants and resulted in double the applications received and five times the number of SEAD applications.

In 2021, the following projects were approved:

Fund	Recipient	Project	Funding
SEAD	Dai Kojima - Toronto	Tuition and educational costs for Masters' in Counselling Psychology, intergenerational traumas among JC.	\$2,000
SEAD	Alex Eiichi Mayer - Nanaimo	Tuition for The Julliard School. Travel costs for auditioning in Oboe performance for professional orchestras in New York City	\$2,000
SEAD	Carol Akasaka - Burnaby	Competing in World Masters Games in Japan in Olympic Weightlifting	\$1,500
SEAD	Kevin Takahide Lee – New Westminster	Year project to study the Japanese language and Japanese instrument, shamisen.	\$1,500



Fund	Recipient	Project	Funding
CD	Junko Ida – New Denver	Relocate the House of Joyful Tidings to maintain the building and to create an in-situ experience of Japanese history and culture of the Orchard	\$4,500
CD	Tashme Historical Society - Hope	Legacy garden to commemorate Japanese Canadian internees	\$4,000
CD	Manami Hara – North Vancouver	Play, <i>Courage Now</i> , workshops and public reading on Granville Island or The Firehall Arts Centre	Approved in 2020, funds returned \$4,500
CD	Natsuki Abe - Victoria	Adventure game "Into the Interior" about internment and dispossession of JC	\$4,000
CD	Bravo Niagara – Niagara on the Lake	Production phase 1 of 8-minute video "Kimiko's Pearl: Digital Short" and 75-minute live production	\$3,500
CD	Nicola Koyanagi - Peterborough	Mata Ashita, International writing circle with Japanese Canadian writers	\$3,000
CD	Kiyoshi Gary Nagata - Toronto	The core group Ten Ten compose and record 7 original mix of traditional Japanese songs. Available to public online.	\$3,000
CD	Carley Okamura – Edmonton	Production of the Model Minority Project, performance series on Asian Canadian identity and anti-racism during COVID.	\$3,000
CD	Kate Kamo McHugh - Kitchener	Solo dance piece called Michiko working on language, physical appearance and family names. Presentation at IMPACT International Theatre Festival Oct 2021	\$3,000
Total		2021 SEAD: \$7,000 2021 CD: \$28,000	2021 \$35,000 2020 \$4,500



## Community Development Fund

Les Kojima, Acting Community Development Fund AChair

The Community Development Fund exists to support member and supporting organizations of NAJC. For the second year in a row, in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 health restrictions on the operations of member and supporting organizations, NAJC (1) waived membership fees for the year and (2) increased the annual budget allocation for the Community Development Fund from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

The Community Development Committee consists of Melisa Kamibayashi-Staples (Ottawa), Joanne Rollins (Regina) and David Mitsui (Edmonton). The committee is normally chaired by the Secretary, but because of a vacancy in the Secretary position after the 2020 AGM, Les Kojima served as acting chair until recently.

Fewer than half of our member and supporting organizations initially applied for a 2020 Community Development Fund grant, totaling roughly two thirds of the approved budget. With the endorsement of NEB, the above committee issued a second call for 2020 grants, open only to organizations that had not responded to the initial call. The second call was oversubscribed and the 2021 Community Development Fund grant applications were such that the budget allocations for 2020 and 2021 were fully utilized. The following table summarizes approved Community Development Fund grants in during the past fiscal year.

Centre	Project	Funding
<b>ROUND ONE APPLICATIONS</b>		
Toronto	Support for Momiji	\$3,000
Nanaimo	Equipment for Obon Odori Dance group, Udon luncheon, Spring Picnic, Tanabata Festival	\$1,500
Winnipeg	Operating costs to maintain the building	\$3,000
Edmonton	EJCA Website redesigning project	\$3,000
Whitehorse	Electronic publishing of the book "Picture brides" by Miyoko	\$2,500
Victoria	Japanese Cultural Virtual fair on Oct 24	\$3,000
Vancouver	Series of community education Zoom workshops	\$3,000
JAMSNET	Seminar/workshop in Japanese about domestic violence/intimate partner abuse	\$1,500



Centre	Project	Funding
ROUND TWO APPLICATIONS		
Hamilton	Organization or operating costs	\$2,000
Lakehead (Thunder Bay)	Organization or operating costs	\$700
Ottawa	Organization or operating costs	\$1,300
New Denver	Organization or operating costs	\$1,000
Calgary	Organization or operating costs	\$2,000
Nikkei National Museum	Organization or operating costs	\$1,000
Lethbridge	Organization or operating costs	\$1,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>

## Community Renewal Fund

Art Miki, Community Renewal Fund Committee Chair

The applications for a project by member organizations have closed and any outstanding payments for projects have been extended until December 30, 2021. This will conclude the program and any amounts not expended will revert back to the NAJC.

The NAJC had provided a one-time grant of

- \$24,000 maximum for NAJC Full Member organizations, and
- \$4000 maximum for NAJC Supporting Member organizations

This began in 2016, to cover the cost of capital projects, renovations, facility improvements, new or continuing programs, initiatives, events, and/or any related projects.



Here is some final information:

- The amount of monies approved the Committee for 15 organizations was \$281,108.
- The amount of monies paid to date is \$254,912. Reports and invoices for the outstanding amounts have a deadline of December 30, 2021.
- Twelve full member organizations and three supporting member organizations benefited from the Renewal Fund.
- Only one organization did not take advantage of the opportunity.

The purpose of the Renewal Fund was to assist community organizations was to revitalize the Japanese Canadian community by providing financial assistance to Full Member and Supporting Member organizations. We hope that organizations were able to improve their facility, or increase the capacity and sustainability by greater involvement of their volunteer base and youth engagement.

Thanks to the members of the Community Renewal Fund Committee for their time and participating in the decision-making process. The members of the committee were: Art Miki (chair), Dave Mitsui, Eiko Eby, George Uyeda, Patti Simpson.

Thanks so much to Karina Uehara, NAJC Administrator for keeping detailed records of the projects and sending out correspondences.



## Feedback from our Member Organizations

We asked our member organizations to provide answers to a few questions that we posed to them during the extraordinary year we have just gone through. Their collective responses are provided below.

### **How has your organization/community been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, looking back to the past 16 months? What issues, challenges, impacts have you faced? (1-2 paragraphs)**

We have had to close to the public for the entire duration. We have had to cancel virtually all our events and move the language program to zoom. It has been more difficult to engage and meet younger individuals without the in-person interaction of community events.

We responded to the PPE crisis by forfeiting our CDF Grant \$3,000 to Momiji Seniors and adding \$2,000 for a total of \$5,000.

- Japanese Language School for children and playcare group (kids and parents group) could not operate classes and activities. Many kids lost connection with other JCAY members. They could not see outside family members, so not much inter-generational activities (speaking Japanese)
- In general we could not host the events and activities. Challenge is not many membership seem to be interested in zoom meeting or events.

The NIMC visitor numbers were down due to COVID-19 restriction. In 2020, there was a lock-down in from May to June and we were forced to close the NIMC for 1.5 months. From May to June 2021, there was a second “lock-down” where we were limited to local visitors, where only visitors from our health region can visit

#### Challenges:

- Staffing – Bringing in qualified post-secondary students from outside of our region or province was challenging due to COVID restrictions. Fortunately, we were able to hire local students but they had limited experience working with Collections or as Museum Assistants.
- Supply Costs: Extra supplies for cleaning and purchasing plexiglass for staff/visitor safety had to be purchased.
- Cleaning: Cleaning staff hired to clean washrooms daily.



The financial impact on our organization has been substantial. With the closure of our office and Centre, our rental revenues were greatly reduced and our major fundraiser, Omatsuri, was cancelled not only for 2020 but for August 2021. Thanks to the grants we received from NAJC, we were able to subsist. Utilities, insurance, security, etc were not greatly reduced in spite of the fact our Centre was closed. We replaced some of our usual activities with online versions of them. The additional technology required did result in some enhancements in equipment and software. We were in the midst of an upgrading of our audio-visual system at the Centre which was completed but expected revenues throughout the year made the project quite costly without any financial returns due to rentals. Another huge impact on our operations was the necessity to eliminate our part-time paid office assistant position. We just couldn't afford to keep her on staff and Board members stepped in as volunteers to keep things rolling: memberships, newsletters, correspondence, etc.

One of our biggest concerns in going online was that many of our members are seniors who aren't all tech savvy and had challenges keeping engaged in our virtual activities.

Like everyone, the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre (NNMCC) faced unprecedented challenges over the past 16 months as we followed ever-changing health and safety protocols, shut-down and phased re-opening orders, and lost all of our regular revenue sources. But as much as the pandemic impacted us, it also brought out the best in our team and with the support of our board, we were able to survive all of this without any significant loss of staff or momentum. If anything, the pivots required of us saw a flourishing of creativity, nimbleness, innovation, and collaboration amongst our staff. Our most significant exhibit endeavour to date, Broken Promises, developed through our partnership with the research and public history project Landscapes of Injustice (LOI), was produced and launched successfully on time and on budget with record-breaking numbers attending the live streamed opening. Our second and equally important exhibit, Writing Wrongs – Japanese Canadian protest letters of the 1940s, through Digital Museums Canada, and also founded on LOI research, was delayed but auspiciously completed during these past 16 months to launch alongside Broken Promises. Although all in-person indoor activity was shut down for many months, our education programs swiftly adapted to online and outdoor programming, as did our special events – expanding from what previously would have been 1 or 2 day indoor festivals, markets, and events to month-long safely socially distanced garden events.

Our museum shop focused on improving our online presence and our collections/archives team managed our ongoing commitment to digitizing, preserving,



and growing our never-ending trove of individual, family, and community contributions to Japanese Canadian history and heritage. We did need to pause acquiring any new donations during most of the past 16 months for donor and staff safety and now our collections team is working to catch up to the waitlist backlog that has accrued. All areas benefitted from various and diverse pandemic resiliency funding from all levels of government and organizations including the NAJC. Without that support, we would not have survived. But thanks to that and our community, we have come out of the past 16 months prepared to revitalize and restart stronger than ever.

We have been unable to have any events in person and had to cancel a major event that was set to go the next week. We lost over \$ 500.00 in revenue. We have a difficult time planning events with so much uncertainty. We would like to continue to support lonely seniors and would like to help them learn new technology techniques so that they can be better connected.

Since March 2020, we have been unable to host any events which has affected our ability to collect membership dues and raise funds. Our two biggest revenue producers are the New Years' Shinnekai and Tanabata in July. In a normal year, we will host 5-6 events. In 2020, we lost about \$1500 of potential revenue. In addition, we have lost potential growth of the membership. Our organization has been growing along with the population of Nanaimo. We anticipate not being able to host any events until late Fall of 2021 and have not collected any membership dues since January 2020.

Challenges with Anti-Asian racism - our organization supports any anti-asian racism efforts that have increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

All of our Centre activities were suspended at various times. Some clubs and our library were able to partially open at different times and then were closed again.

We purchased PPE and hand sanitizer. We prepared protocols, posters and sign in forms that visitors had to complete. Many activities became virtual events or combination of in person and online. Membership dropped significantly during the year (from 800 to just over 400).

No in-person seminars, especially no career seminars in Vancouver and Toronto. No First Aid station and CPR station for Japanese Canadian events in all over Canada.

We have not been able to fundraise as we did prior to the pandemic. Our newsmagazine, The Bulletin-Geppo mailout process has been reduced so that our editor is also completing the mail-out process on his own. The board has not been able to meet in person so must rely on the zoom meeting process. Although zooming has





reduced costs such as transportation costs for board members to attend meetings, the inability to engage freely with one another in person has affected the sense of togetherness of the board and connection with one another. We are being as positive as possible concerning our board relationships. In our operations, we have been sticking to getting the basics done operationally. Our subcommittees concerning projects have had some challenges finding the time to have in depth discussions about pending projects such as our intergenerational dialogue video project. In past this kind of project would have utilized community outreach where people would gather in person and have an afternoon workshop on the topic. We think having a zoom meeting and reaching older community members would be more of a challenge. Zoom meetings have worked but the desire to meet in person remains a goal as personal connection to gain a deeper sense of understanding or unity concerning projects remains strong. We are also in need of recruiting board directors from the membership and we hope our in person AGM will indicate membership interest and members will show up. The pandemic has affected the sense of involvement in the GVJCCA from the membership. Generally the pandemic has affected us most of all in securing operational dollars from fundraising. We thank the NAJC for approving our CD grant application for 2021-2022 based on this concern.

We have had three virtual events and one outdoor Ohaka Mairi ceremony. Our members miss seeing each other in person but have kept things as safe as possible.

The cultural centre has remained closed, and we have had to postpone/cancel all major public events/fundraisers - Mochitsuki, Bazaar, picnic (2 years), Tomoni. Our newsletter was put on hold along with our community tv programme.

Our search/specific fundraising initiative for a new space for the Cultural Centre has been put on hold. Several Japanese cultural groups have lost their practice/activity space. Some businesses have had to close.

We have also waived membership fees for one year.

We have cancelled all our social gathering and public in-person events. We pivoted to online or virtual delivery. Our annual Japanese Cultural Fair was a 3 hours show live streamed on YouTube; we held a virtual Hanami Celebration using Zoom; our Heritage Committee held virtual tours, our Japanese and Ikebana lessons were held via Zoom and all our meetings were conducted using Zoom. Because we were not able to hold any fund raising events, our Japanese Cultural Fair being the prime fundraiser, we incurred a large operating deficit and had to dip into our savings to cover the deficit.



**How has your organization changed as a result of COVID 19? Have you introduced new programs, new modes of delivery, etc? (1-2 paragraphs)**

We moved to zoom and performed curb side pick up events

We have moved to online delivery of programs.

The Toronto NAJC has held these online events since the start of the pandemic.

1. Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism
2. Bystander Intervention Training
3. Burning Province with Michael Prior, Matt Miwa and Julie Tamiko Manning
4. Virtual Town Hall with Mayor John Tory
5. Redress Anniversary, Launch of digital version of Japanese Canadian Redress, the Toronto Story
6. Virtual Tour of Mohawk Residential School
7. Virtual AGM
8. The Loyalty Questionnaire Webinar
9. Freedom Day Celebration
10. Eastern Launch of Challenging Racist BC

- -Board meeting is occurred via zoom which is helpful for some board members who have small children.
- -Conversation class is offered via zoom.
- -JCAY has received Yukon Government New Canadians Event Fund every year, but we could not host the event last year, so we made a short film and showed online. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY8f-VgBvC4>

We have not been able to introduce new programs or new modes of delivery yet as we are struggling to find resources and funding to run daily operations with added COVID challenges - and just focusing on this is a priority. We are also focusing on planning for the NIMC Revitalization Project (CERIP-funded).

This August would have been our eleventh summer festival. Earlier this spring, it was decided that we would go virtual this year. We basically started near zero in planning, organizing, even deciding what was required to host something like this. Our "experts" in organizing this year's Omatsuri were the younger members of our community. This was a real positive move but there were challenges in finding the right fit for those roles. Those younger volunteers are working full time with jobs as well as volunteering



countless hours with CJCA. Our cooking classes became online cooking demonstrations.

The pandemic forced us to break from old patterns of busy-ness and gave space to look at efficiencies, new ways of delivering our programs, clarifying our needs vs wants, and being pro-active vs reactive in our planning and communications. We have new platforms for internal communication, are working to improve our public-facing platforms, have made human resources improvements, and are embracing change. Our digital programming and online offerings have advanced exponentially during the past 16 months. It's been a steep learning curve that continues. We have always been committed to assisting the Nikkei community preserve and share their stories and this has been enhanced with technology through our Family History One on One research sessions, our videos, e-books, and podcast series, our moving pictures collections, and digital field trips. Already we have online booking forms for event space and education programs, but coming soon will be clearer instructions on our website on how to add to our growing repository of heritage through an easy-to-follow transparent donations process.

We thought that we could help our seniors connect via zoom. Many do not have access to wifi or to devices. We tried group telephone calls but these are difficult for seniors to navigate. When we can meet again we plan to host some technology workshops to help our seniors learn computer skills We have been trying to maintain contact with seniors as many are vulnerable and lonely. We have been assisting them with access to vaccine clinics. We have not been creating new programs just helping the seniors keep connections with the community.

We have a new board of directors as of June 2021. This new board has been very active working on the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund as well as new projects like our Japanese Cherry Blossom Tree Fundraising campaign. The Central Vancouver Island Region is very rich in Japanese Canadian History as there were several large communities prior to 1942. Unfortunately, there is very little known about these communities. We are trying to uncover more history and bring more Japanese Culture to the Central Vancouver Island Region.

Many activities became virtual events or combination of in person and online. We purchased new video equipment that allowed for better remote broadcasting.

Yes, we have focused on Online seminars such as Covid-19 vaccination seminars ; one on April 17 and the other on May 1. About 370 participants joined. Child mental health in



Covid -19 pandemic on June 12. About 64 participants joined. Domestic Violence workshop on June 19. About 32 participants. We hope we will have an in-person 2nd DV workshop in Ottawa on Saturday August 28, 2021 by using NAJC community development fund.

We have certainly applied electronic programming as a way to remain active. this past year, we presented a zoom format series of 4 workshops focused on racism issues. Delivery has relied heavily on zoom programming.

We bought a zoom account and started holding virtual meetings, events and votes. We tried online bingo through zoom and made up our own trivia night. That has been a success. Prizes were mailed to members. We have not had any events with food served which we look forward to at the later part of this year.

We have held meetings online and have organized a number of online programs. We tried an online scavenger hunt and online karaoke. But have greater success with panel talks, including On Being Yukiko support and book distribution. We have created a bilingual (Japanese/English) weekly eBlast to stay connected with the community.

We had a mochi making and distribution initiative.

We have also been able to collaborate with Toronto with online initiatives and have partnered with a number of other Asian groups on Anti-Asian racism info series.

As described in the previous answer during the pandemic we pivoted to online or virtual delivery of programs and events. As we gradually return to live, in-person events we will assess if we will retain some aspect of the virtual delivery.

We are also be looking into news ways of fundraising that are pandemic proof. e.g. online auctions or a raffle.

### **What are the priorities for your organization in the coming year?**

Our main priority is to reopen and start our regular programming

CRRF Grant Project

- Symposium on Community Led Research



## **What should the main focuses of the NAJC be for the rest of 2021 and 2022?**

Regulations allowing, getting back to In-person networking opportunities, events  
Focus on youth age 13-26.

Japanese Canadian Research Catalogue

Digital Museums Project

- Exiles in Our Own Country, Japanese Canadians in Niagara

Significant Historical Events

- 75th Anniversary of the the NJCCA/NAJc

- 80th Anniversary of the Internment

- Freedom Day

Toronto Ban talks with City of Toronto

B.C. Seniors Grant

-Kids language school, kids gathering group

-Providing the opportunity to learn about Indian Residential School history for JCAY members.

-Intergenerational learning (elders and kids) to teach children and their parents about JC history in Canada.

The Village of New Denver's first priority is to keep the centre open for visitors from May to September. The Village was fortunate enough to be awarded CERIP grant to revitalize the NIMC and our priority is to have the projects finished by March 2023. Strategic planning needs to be in process by 2022. Finally, we are committed to collaborating with NAJC to obtain sustainable funding in place.

We lost a number of members during this past year. Many felt that since the Centre was closed to activities and they were not all that keen to participate online, that they would let their membership lapse. We need to find ways to entice them back as well as bring in new members. Perhaps one thing we have realized is that maybe we need to revamp our operations to become more streamlined and more relevant to a greater and broader range of members. We are also embarking on The Legacy Project which is an initiative to replace our current facilities with a new build. This poses a humongous issue of continuing to promote our operations at the same time plan for the eventual evacuation of the building to permit its destruction and a replacement with a new building.

Our main priority for the coming year is sustaining our operations (currently averaging a cost of \$3000/day just to keep the doors open) and coming out of the pandemic with strength.



We would like to meet in a safe environment. We need to plan our events to ensure that social distancing is a possibility especially when food is served. We would like to apply to have the travelling exhibit Broken Promises come to our area and will investigate the best venue for this.

1. Host a Mental Health Workshop for Survivors of the Internment.
2. Plant Japanese Cherry Blossom Trees in cooperation with the City of Nanaimo to bring Japanese Culture to our city.
3. Gather stories of Japanese Canadian Seniors living on Vancouver Island
4. Rejuvenate our membership and host events when it is safe to do so.
5. Support activities in the Central Vancouver Island region that promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for all.

Re-start clubs and activities and reach out to increase membership and involvement. Promote the benefits of our multi ethnic organization to the wider community - to put a positive spin on racial diversity.

Online DV workshops inviting representatives such as lawyer and police personnel. Dementia volunteer workshops in NAJC local chapters. Mental health workshops working with MJCC under Covid-19 pandemic.

We continue to be active in antiracism work in solidarity with other communities and groups. This is a great priority as racism and hate are actively affecting today's society and collaborative action must be strong and continuously in play to address this threat. Systemic racism and the colonial roots of our institutions need to be eradicated and united community action and activism is required to effectively influence our political structures. We need to recruit members to join the GJVCCA Human Rights Committee. We also need to secure a better connection with younger generations. We need more members to volunteer for board director positions. We also want to do what we can and be engaged in the NAJC BC Redress project so that the outcome will be just on behalf of our community.

Plan a couple of late summer outdoor events and continue into the New Year. We want to continue to be a place for community and acceptance.

Recovery. Trying to ensure our community can reconnect and get back on track. We have just published a newsletter and we are working on an activity guide for fall publication. We also hope to hold Mochitsuki in December.



1. Restart our Japanese Cultural Fair.
2. Implement new fundraising activities.
3. Organize an event for our JC Survivors
4. Hold an 80th Anniversary of Internment event.

### **What should the main focuses of the NAJC be for the rest of 2021 and 2022?**

To continue supporting local chapters during the pandemic and to ensure that you fulfil the mission statement

Regulations allowing, getting back to In-person networking opportunities, events

Focus on youth age 13-26.

Ijusha Outreach

Human Rights Focus on allyship with Indigenous Peoples

Connecting Anti-Asian Racism to all forms of racism and discrimination

-Connecting between new immigrants and Japanese Canadians (2, 3, 4, 5 generations) members. How we can provide an opportunity for new immigrants to learn about JC history in Canada.

-Connecting with small JC groups (local chapters) to share the info (activities and ideas)

Continue to support the members and member organizations as we face challenges of providing community, networking, education and cultural programs to the general public.

NAJC have had their hands full of projects that run from one end of the spectrum to the other. Human rights, BC Redress, helping the community organizations, etc. I want them to continue the work they are doing.

We have been impressed with all of the digital programming, workshops, webinars, book launches etc. that the NAJC has hosted during this unprecedented year. We would encourage you to continue with all of that.

We are very encouraged by the progress the team is making on the BC Redress and the Anglican Healing Fund. We are also following the story of the connection with the Indigenous People and the Japanese Canadian stories. We believe that we should do our best to support the Indigenous People in Canada and world wide. It was also very interesting to hear about the work of Past Wrongs Future Choices .

Assisting member organizations in realizing their goals



Anti-Asian Racism awareness.

Keep updating organizations on what is happening across Canada with various Japanese Communities.

Build coalitions with other ethnic and racial groups to stand up against racism. Promote the passage of anti hate legislation. Participate in promotion of the benefits of racial diversity. The recent Olympic Games featured many Canadian athletes from diverse backgrounds. Can this be part of an education campaign?

Acknowledge the historical anniversaries of internment and the creation of a national association and discuss its significance now.

Continue the current great activities.

The NAJC needs to continue practising its good standard regarding organizational efficiency and focus on delivering its programs supporting communities and chapter organizations, but should also be seen as an outreaching and supportive organization within the national community. The NAJC should engage in scheduled sessions where the entire board has direct meetings with each chapter organization and with its individual members to address questions and concerns, based in the community, and get to know what is happening at the community level. The NAJC continues to need to establish a a more connected relationship with member communities. At this time the BC Redress senior wellness project and its outreach (time consuming but so valuable) is having a good impact joining the NAJC more closely to communities and individuals. There should be an overall profile of the NAJC being outreaching and having a less bureaucratic image within the national community. Also would be good to be assured there is strong, open communication practice, transparency, cohesiveness within the the Board of Directors. The issues which surfaced during 2018 which indicated some dysfunction within the NEB needed to be dealt with, but if dealing effectively with these issues openly was a challenge, the concern is that those issues may continue to be affecting relations and the functioning of the NEB even today.

I really enjoy the direction of the NAJC and I think there should be continued focus and recording past history and balancing that with forward thinking and taking care of our present community. Continue to show our proud Japanese roots and exploring further our Canadian history and future.

Supporting organizations through recovery and reconnecting in 2022.  
BC Redress, anti-Asian Racism and 2022 National Conference.





## Canadian Race Relations Foundation Update

Art Miki, NAJC Representative on the Canadian Race Relations Foundation

Since the last report there have been many new developments. In October 2020, Mr Mohammed Hashim was appointed as the new Executive Director by Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, replacing Dr. Lillian Ma. His expertise and experience is in the area of human rights and advocacy on behalf of marginalized communities. I wish to share with you some of the initiatives:

- Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, the CRRF has continued to speak out on many issues such as the legacy of residential schools, Block Hate campaign as result of consequences of Online Hate, Anti- Asian racism, Black History month and the consequences from Black Lives Matters and a strong statement on the Declaration of January 29<sup>th</sup> as a National Day of Remembrance of Quebec City mosque attack and action against Islamophobia.
- The Board has completed the Strategic plan for 2020-2023. This was based on consultations with the stakeholders.
- A Community Mobilization Fund was established to provide grants from \$5-20,000 to community organizations for anti-racism projects. This was made possible because CRRF received donations of over \$300,000 from the Canadian public during the period when Black Lives Matters and Anti-Asian Racism was prevalent and received extensive media coverage.
- The CRRF received an injection of \$11.2 million as an investment by the Government of Canada in the recent budget to help strengthen CRRF as a national organization and work together with community groups and anti-racism organizations.
- In June, CRRF sponsored a National Forum on Anti-Asian Racism.
- Rosalind Kang was hired as a new Regional Coordinator for Western Canada and will be stationed in Alberta. An Eastern Coordinator will also be hired soon. This is an effort of CRRF to establish more profile and contacts in the various regions outside of Ontario.
- CRRF released a poll on online hate speech and racism in Canada. Results of this survey can be found on the CRRF website.
- Board of Directors (2021):

Teresa Woo-Paw (Chair)- Calgary	Raymond Tynes –Truro NS
Cheryl May – Toronto	Anne-Marie Pham - Calgary
Chiamaka Mogo – Vancouver	Orlando Bowen – Toronto
Emilie Nicolas – Montreal	Roy Pogorzelski – Lethbridge
Nancy Rosenfeld - Montreal	



## Landscapes of Injustice Update

Lorene Oikawa, NAJC President

The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) was a partner with the University of Victoria in the Landscapes of Injustice (LOI) project. The NAJC President was the LOI Steering Committee Vice Chair. The project is finished, but the outputs continue. LOI was a seven year multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, community engaged project that looked at the dispossession of Canadians of Japanese ancestry that took place in the 1940s.

The first four years of the project, phase 1, was focused on research. That research examined the origins of the government policy and the failure of Canadian law to protect Japanese Canadians from having their homes, farms, businesses, vehicles, fishing boats, personal and community property taken and sold without their permission. The final three years, phase 2, focused on knowledge mobilization.

LOI project outputs include:

- Digital Storytelling website
- Landscapes of Injustice book
- Museum Exhibit – Broken Promises
- Touched by Dispossession
- Teacher Resources
- Digital Research Database

NAJC hosted an online session for the launch of the LOI book and two online sessions to provide an update on the progress of the database and to hear from Japanese Canadians who benefitted from accessing the documents about their families in the database.

The Digital Research Database was launched in March 2021. The database is a user-friendly resource where visitors can look through the thousands of records related to the dispossession of Japanese Canadians.



On July 31, 2021, NAJC co-hosted an online session with LOI Project Manager Michael Abe and in association with the Powell Street Festival. The LOI Research Database and



Family Story Sharing session provided an opportunity to hear family stories from Tami Hirasawa, president of the Central Vancouver Island Japanese Canadian Cultural Society (Seven Potatoes), NAJC member organization, and Kevin Okabe, NAJC Executive Director. They also shared their research from the LOI database as an example of what Japanese Canadians may find when they search the database.

Online sessions were recorded and available on the NAJC website and youtube.

NAJC is currently participating as a partner in the Past Wrongs, Future Choices proposal which is underway. The proposal looks to continue our collaboration and expands the partnership to include international partners. Proposed project activities include involving local member organizations and communities in LOI Research Database workshops and seminars and opportunities for hosting the Broken Promises travelling museum exhibit.





# **Appendix A: March 31, 2021 Audited Financial Statements**

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2021  
(See separate document)



# Appendix B: Organizational Chart

