



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

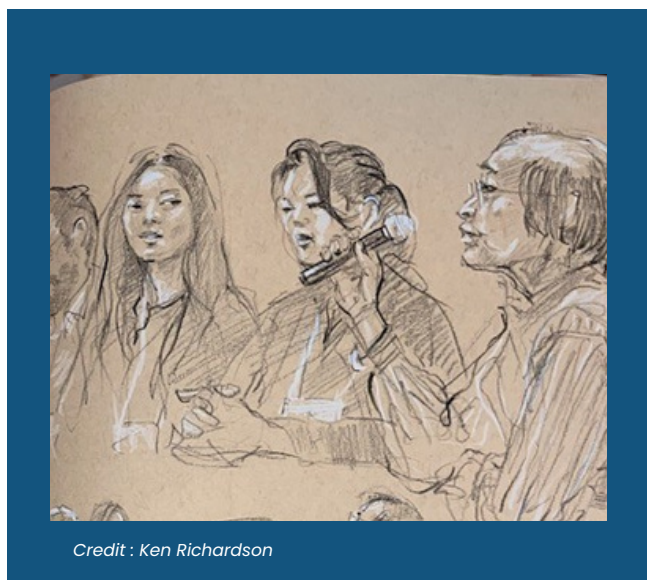
Membership Update – October 2023

NAJC WINNIPEG CONFERENCE RECAP

We're excited to share the highlights from the recent National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) conference that took place in Winnipeg from September 22nd to 24th at the JCAM Center. Despite a few flight delays, we all made our way to Winnipeg. A special shoutout to those who arrived early and managed to visit the Human Rights Museum. A cultural gem that added to the richness of our conference experience.

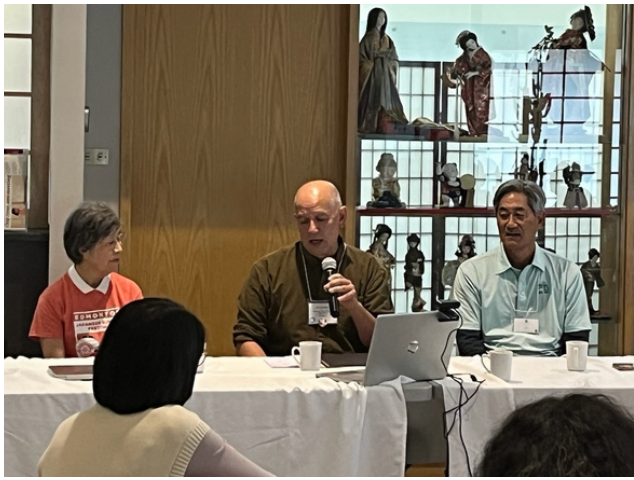
DAY 1

Our conference kicked off at 5 pm with a riveting Workshop Session on Human Rights and Advocacy. This was followed by a warm Welcome Reception and our unique Member Organization 5 Min Video Presentations. The feedback was overwhelming – you loved them! A big thanks to all who contributed. Watch it again here! <https://najc.ca/capacity-building-symposium/>



DAY 2

We started the day with a poignant land acknowledgment by Dr. Clayton Sandy. This was followed by an opening address from Winnipeg's Mayor, Brian Bowman. At 10:30 am, the focus shifted to the "Future of the Japanese Canadian Community" panel. The Young Leaders Committee and the Japanese New Immigrant Committee steered the discussion, with notable insights from Téa Miyanaga, Stéphane Hamade, Yukari Oyama Peerless, and Fumi Torigai. Key topics revolved around youth engagement and community unification.



At 12:30 pm, Ken Richardson, Sanae Ohki, and Les Kojima led a vibrant session on Japanese Festivals from cities like Edmonton, Calgary, and Winnipeg, highlighting different festival strategies to share with other communities. By 2:00 pm, Andrea Sakiyama-Kennedy provided insights on seamlessly integrating digital communications for community organizations. Following at 3:15 pm, a session on Membership was led by Patricia Hirasawa Simpson and team, focusing on strategies for improved member engagement.

DAY 3

On the last day, we kicked off with an opening plenary by Gary Kawaguchi, who shed light on the success of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and their efforts in Toronto. This was followed by Michael Abe's insightful session titled "The Past Wrongs, Future Choices Partnership" during lunch.



2023 ART MIKI NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The NAJC is very proud to announce that the recipient of the 2023 Art Miki National Leadership Award is **Susanne Tabata**. Susanne was a long-time Director and member of the NAJC's National Executive Board. During her tenure, she helped establish the Arts, Culture and Education Committee. This committee was instrumental in launching the online Japanese Canadian Artists Directory and organizing the GEI: Art Symposium in 2022. Yet, Susanne's most remarkable legacy stems from her unwavering commitment to securing the Acknowledgment of Internment and Japanese Canadian Legacies from the Government of British Columbia in 2022. She currently holds the position of Chief Executive Officer at the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society. This organization has taken on the noble task of overseeing the implementation of the BC Redress initiatives.



+204-943-2910

national@najc.ca

@najc.ca

@najc_national

MONTHLY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD COLUMNS



Highlights of October Dates in Japanese Canadian History
 Lorene Oikawa, Past President NAJC

This year, NAJC is revisiting crucial moments from 1941 to 1949, shedding light on the government's actions and their consequences on Japanese Canadians.

October 1940: A special government committee, mostly excluding Japanese Canadian voices, failed to find evidence of "subversive acts" among Japanese Canadians, echoing sentiments from Ken Adachi's "The Enemy That Never Was."

October 1942: Despite being incarcerated, Japanese Canadians in Slokan Valley's camps rallied to support the nation by organizing a Victory Bond drive. Many then faced tough living conditions in hastily built shacks and tents in areas like Popoff.

Mid October 1942: The influx of Japanese Canadians helped revive dying towns, like Greenwood, boosting local economies significantly.

October 31, 1942: It took nearly a year after WW2 began for the government to complete the forced uprooting of Japanese Canadians, an indication of the absence of a genuine threat.

October 1945: Following WW2's end, the CCF, media, and other groups strongly opposed Bill C-15's racist paragraph 3(g) which would allow the federal government to "deport" Japanese Canadians. While this specific clause was removed due to public outcry, Section 4 silently passed, allowing for the extension of all Orders-in-Council under the War Measures Act. The repercussions of these actions kept Japanese Canadians from true freedom until 1949.

OCTOBER JAPANESE CANADIAN HISTORY

1940 - Police report no evidence of "subversive acts over a period of years" and "the Japanese had "an admirable record as law-abiding and decently behaved citizens."™ *The Enemy that Never Was* by Ken Adachi.

1942 - Japanese Canadians incarcerated in the Slokan Valley organize a Victory Bond drive.

1942 - For weeks, 1,200 Japanese Canadians have been living in tents in Popoff.

1942 - The forced uprooting of about 22,000 Japanese Canadians is completed by October 31. Over 2,000 men taken from their families to work in road construction camps are finally allowed to join their families in the internment/incarceration camps.

1945 - Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF precursor to NDP), the media, and Japanese Canadian groups condemn the government's Bill C-15 specifically a racist paragraph 3(g) to deport Japanese Canadians.



Tents covered with snow in Popoff
 1994.63.1 NNM

ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL IMMIGRANT? TAKE A SURVEY!



PARTICIPATION:

- ✓ We created a website to help professional immigrants as they establish themselves in Canada
- ✓ We need participants to complete a **20-45 minute survey** and provide feedback on our website. **No preparation required.**
- ✓ **You will receive a mailed \$25 gift card for your time**

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Immigrated to Canada within the last **10 years**
- ✓ Have **Permanent Residence status** or **Naturalized Canadian Citizenship**
- ✓ Have at least a **Bachelor's degree** or equivalent from your country of origin

CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY ↓

<https://tinyurl.com/389bzty4>



Got Questions?

genecahenry@immigrant-education.ca



M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:40 AM SHARP (Pacific Standard Time)

JAPANESE CANADIAN WAR MEMORIAL IN STANLEY PARK



Above: NNM.2019.32.1.2.073
 Left: Frank Moritsugu in Canadian Army uniform, ca. 1945 courtesy of Frank Moritsugu

DONATE TO THE MEMORIAL



RECEPTION

VANCOUVER ROWING CLUB IN STANLEY PARK

Please join us for a light reception following the ceremony.
 For more information contact Linda Kawamoto Reid, Chair at linda_reid@telus.net

PRESENTED BY:

SPONSORED BY:

Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee
 Veterans Affairs Canada
 National Association of Japanese Canadians
 Nikkei Place Foundation

CENTRE.NIKKEIPLACE.ORG/EVENTS/REMEMBRANCE-DAY-2023

Please support the ongoing, annual Remembrance Day ceremonies organized by the Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee by making a tax-deductible contribution here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/73554?v2=true>



ARTS STREAM OPENING SOON

The Arts stream of the JC Legacies Community Fund opens November 1, 2023.

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for artists who are Japanese Canadian Descendants or Survivors. Established or emerging artist who have attained Professional Practice in the Arts may apply.

The primary applicant must be a Javanese Canadian descendent or survivor but the artist can apply either as an individual or an individual working in collaboration with artists who are not Japanese Canadian descendants or survivors.

COMMUNITY FUND UPDATE

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Community Fund would like to share some updates on Community Projects, Scholarships, and infrastructure. For a complete list of available and upcoming funding opportunities, visit <https://jclegaciesfund.com> where you will find dates for upcoming grants, criteria, and more.

[Read More](#)

Arts Info Sessions

If you are interested in applying for Arts funding and have questions, please join us on one of the following Zoom sessions.

- 1 Info Session One**
Tuesday Oct 24 5pm PST
<https://bit.ly/JCLFArtsInfo1>
- 2 Info session Two**
Thursday Oct 26 10am PST
<https://bit.ly/JCLFArtsinfo2>



NAJC Supports **Japanese Canadian** Artists!

The Meaning and Background of the Pins



Kunio (Bob) Okabe is a Japanese Canadian nisei/sansei, born in Vancouver but forcibly removed with his family to the sugar beet farms of Manitoba. The family was then exiled to Japan in 1946, where he received schooling in Japanese. He decided to return to Canada in 1956, settling in Winnipeg. While in Japan, he learned the art of Japanese Shodo (Calligraphy). Following his retirement, he took to creating Shodo art works, donating many of his works to Japanese community organizations to sell as a fundraiser. He passed away in 2011.

Kunio's artwork has been memorized in a line called "**Calligraphy by Kunio Okabe**", and includes Canadian handcrafted clay necklaces, earrings, clay wall hangings and pins.

Strength (力)

力 (Chikara) - Symbolizing "power" or "strength." This pin embodies the resilience and enduring spirit of those who wear it. A potent reminder of the deep-rooted cultural identity and strength that's woven into the fabric of our shared heritage.



Happiness (幸)

幸 (Sachi) - Symbolizing "happiness." This pin represents the joy and contentment that comes from embracing one's roots and traditions. A heartfelt tribute to the cherished moments and shared joy that enrich our collective experiences and heritage.

Courage (勇)

勇 (Yuu) - Symbolizing "courage." This pin stands for the bravery and bold spirit inherent in our journey and stories. A resounding homage to the fearless determination that defines our shared history and heritage.



The Meaning and Background of the Pins



The Suitcase Project

Kayla Isomura's collaboration, The Suitcase Project, captures the perspectives of yonsei and gosei Japanese Canadians and Americans. It reflects on what they would pack if suddenly uprooted, much like their ancestors during internment and incarceration.

Yonsei (四世)

Meaning fourth generation of Japanese immigrants. The term "四世" serves as a reminder of the resilience and cultural identity that spans across generations, making it a vital part of the collective narrative for those who share this heritage.



Gosei (五世)

Meaning fifth generation of Japanese immigrants. Gosei individuals contribute to the diverse and vibrant tapestry of their society, embracing both their Japanese roots and their connection to their country of birth.

Youngsei (若世)

Meaning forever young. An inclusive term for young folks of Japanese ancestry, regardless of generation.



100% mixed

Race doesn't define your identity. A person's identity is not 50%. You're a whole human, not a half human. This pin carries a powerful message about the complexities of identity and the importance of embracing one's heritage and uniqueness.



INTRODUCING NAJC'S NEW STICKER COLLECTION!



We are thrilled to announce the launch of NAJC's brand-new sticker collection, a celebration of Japanese Canadian identity! 🎉

Rooted in the rich tapestry of our heritage, these stickers are not only a nod to our legacy but also a modern representation of our vibrant community.

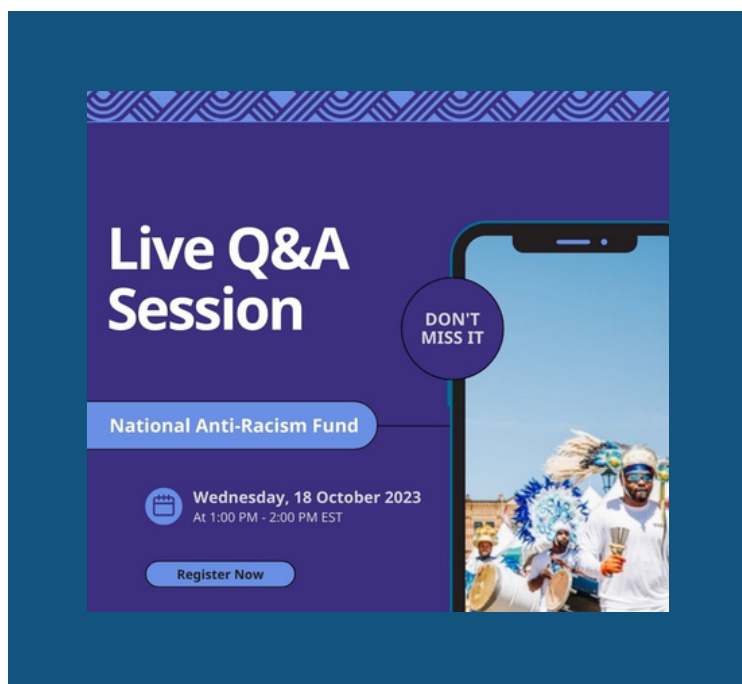
★ **Highlight:** Our Japanese Canadian identity series boasts stickers labeled from "Issei" to "Gosei", representing first to fifth-generation Japanese Canadians.

For the sushi enthusiasts among us (and who isn't?), we've crafted an irresistibly adorable sticker. Imagine a Shiba Inu, those iconic Japanese dogs, wielding chopsticks and delighting in sushi. That's our "SushiLover" sticker in a nutshell!

Whether you want to showcase your generation or simply share your love for sushi, these stickers are a fun and meaningful way to do so.

📦 **Get Yours Now:** If you're as excited as we are and want to get your hands on these stickers, please reach out to Kevin Okabe at ed@najc.ca for more information and purchasing details.

Thank you for your continuous support, and we hope you love these stickers as much as we do!



The Canadian Race Relations Foundation was created by the Government of Canada as a Crown corporation in 1996, as part of the Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement, to reaffirm the principles of justice and equality for all in Canada. For more information about the organization and their activities, please go to their website: <https://crrf-fcrr.ca/statements-announcements/>



TORONTO NEWS!



DEAR FRIENDS,

Led by our Next Generation team, this community building event honours Roger Obata, the founding president of the NJCCA-NAJC. Obata organized games between JC and Indigenous teams in the 1930s in Prince Rupert, BC. An outgoing, team player through his lifetime, Obata was VP of the NAJC when redress was achieved. It will be a fun and friendly day combining athletics, authors, art, activism and more.

PARTICIPANT CATEGORY | \$5 registration fee (includes complimentary t-shirt)

Basketball skill-building and fun activities for youth, the young-at-heart and all ages.

[REGISTRATION](#)

[Read More](#)



Alberta Community Development offers a wide range of board development sessions which deal with a variety of board and governance related topics. Best of all, they are free of charge and are accessible over the internet. We invite the members of the boards of the NAJC member organizations to take advantage of these courses! Further information can be found below.



Don't Miss Non-profit Webinars!

Register Now

We are back with a great lineup of live free webinars in the areas of non-profit board development, governance, grant writing, and many more:

- The Role of the Board Treasurer
- The Role of the Board Chair
- The Role of the Board Secretary
- Board Development Program
 - Understanding Your Legal Landscape Webinar
 - Board Roles and Responsibilities
 - Legal Responsibilities
 - Organizational Purpose and Planning
 - Financial Responsibilities
 - Risk Management
 - Committees and Meetings
 - Building Strong Teams and Effective Relationships
- Grant Writing 101

To see general information about our webinars, please visit <https://AlbertaCDU.eventbrite.com>

Please share this email with your fellow board members, your communities, or whomever you think would be interested in nonprofit organizations.

Alberta Non-Profit Learning Centre

Check out Non-profit Learning Centre

Access Non-profit Learning Resources Anytime.

Alberta's non-profit and voluntary sector will now be able to access enhanced online training and resources in English and French to support the success of their non-profit work. The Government of Alberta's Non-Profit Learning Centre is an online hub where Alberta's non-profit and voluntary sector can access timely services, materials, information, resources and self-directed learning about board governance and other specific and unique sector questions and challenges.

Visit and sign up today to access high quality learning anytime and at your own convenience at <https://alberta.ca/NonProfitLearning>.

If you have any questions, we would be happy to hear from you at CommunityDevelopment@gov.ab.ca.

Crowdfunding Alberta News

Crowdfunding Alberta

Eligibility for match funding resets on April 1, 2023.

The Government of Alberta may provide match funding for one campaign per organization per fiscal year. The Government's next fiscal year begins on April 1. All campaigns submitted in the new fiscal will once again be considered for match funding of up to \$15,000.

Read more in the attached document.

Contribute to Our Newsletter & Stay Updated with NAJC Enews!

We are always eager to showcase the diverse voices and perspectives of our community in our newsletter. Whether you have an enlightening article, an insightful story, or an upcoming event you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please submit your contributions to projects@najc.ca.

If you're not already receiving the NAJC Enews, you're missing out on essential updates and community happenings! To ensure you stay in the loop, kindly subscribe by visiting www.najc.ca. Scroll to the bottom of the page and fill out your details under "Subscribe to our mailing list". By doing so, you'll be the first to know about all our exciting initiatives and announcements.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.