



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

NAJC Statement Regarding Increase of Racist Aggressions against Asian Canadians due to COVID 19

Winnipeg, Manitoba – April 27, 2020

We call on our Government leaders to speak, act and stand with targeted communities, against anti-Chinese and anti-Asian racism related to linkages between the COVID-19 pandemic and China.

The most recent remarks, made by Derek Sloan, Member of Parliament for Ontario, show the kind of racist attitudes that are surfacing during this COVID-19 pandemic. There is no excuse for those who would use the crisis to scapegoat, revile and cast doubt on the loyalty and credibility of Canadian representatives.

Sloan is quoted as saying, “Tam must go!”, asking, “Does she work for Canada or China?”. These remarks are unacceptable. Sloan should be asked to resign by Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, who has yet to denounce Sloan and is refusing to comment.

Dr. Theresa Tam, chief Public Health Officer, has been working hard, coordinating with the World Health Organizations and provincial counterparts across the country and world, to control the spread of the COVID-19 in Canada.

The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) joins with a network of other Asian Canadians who have come together out of concern for the escalating incidents of verbal and violent attacks against defenceless individuals. Allowing hate to rise against any minority or vulnerable group diminishes the ability of our communities and our country to act in solidarity - as we must - to overcome this world-wide pandemic.

The NAJC was formed in 1947 to fight for the rights of 22,000 Japanese Canadians who were stripped of their rights and interned during and after the Second World War. In 1988, the Canadian Government acknowledged and apologized for the injustices. The NAJC strives for equal rights and liberties for all people, in particular racial and ethnic minorities.