



BC Redress Community Consultations

Sponsored by the National Association of Japanese Canadians
with support from the Province of British Columbia

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Purpose

To invite **input** and develop a **consensus**
in the Japanese Canadian community
on **Redress recommendations** for the NAJC
to present to the Government of British Columbia



Swimming Upstream

Sets out the case for redress by NAJC against
the BC government

Swimming Upstream

Japanese Canadian Struggle for Justice in BC

Available on Youtube, Nikkei National Museum, and Canadian Race Relations websites



Case for Redress

Devastating Impact of Systemic Racism

- Erasure of the history and presence of Japanese Canadians due to forced dispersal
- Shame associated with being labelled as enemy aliens
- Many individuals and families cut ties with their Japanese Canadian communities and identities
- Loss of Japanese language, history and culture amongst current generations of Japanese Canadians
- Less visibility of the Japanese Canadian Community



Case for Redress

Financial losses (Japanese Canadians)

- \$443 million in 1986 dollars (Price Waterhouse, 1986)
- \$867 million in 2018 dollars

Educational savings to BC Government

- from refusal to provide for the education of interned school-aged children in BC
- \$13-20 million in 2018 dollars



Case for Redress

The BC Government has a long history of discriminatory legislation

BC politicians successfully lobbied for the uprooting, forced removal and delayed return of Japanese Canadians which **devastated our community** in BC



Precedent

Chinese Canadians

- 2006 Federal Government apology and compensation
- 2015 BC Government
 - Consultations
 - Apology
 - Redress measures



Government Apologies

1988 Federal Government apology and compensation

2012 BC Government apology

- No consultations
- No responsibility acknowledged
- No redress measures



B.C. Government's Japanese Canadian Initiatives

2002: \$70,000 Grant to the Japanese Canadian National Museum

2015: B.C. government supported a few education and awareness projects about Japanese-Canadian Internment, including “Hastings Park 1942”



B.C. Government's Japanese Canadian Initiatives

2016: Japanese Canadian Historic Places Recognition Program

- ▶ Province recognized 56 places reflecting history with valuable contributions made by Japanese Canadians to BC's diversity and prosperity

2017: 75th Anniversary of the Internment

- ▶ Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure placed the first permanent marker in B.C. to acknowledge Internment



BC Redress Chronology

November 2017: Meeting with Ravi Kahlon
(Parliamentary Secretary for Sports and Multiculturalism)

April 2018: NAJC proposal to the BC government
presented to Premier Horgan



BC Redress Chronology

August 2018: Meeting with Lisa Beare
(Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture)

December 2018: Meeting with Asha Bhat
(Creative and Multiculturalism Division)



BC Redress Chronology

January 2019: Verbal agreement in principle

March 2019: Agreement signed



The Agreement



\$30,000 for community consultations

Face to face in 9 locations in BC

Virtual consultations

Online submissions



Discussion Question

What should the Government of British Columbia do to redress its history of racial discrimination and unjust actions that devastated the Japanese Canadian community?

In small groups, discuss the above, reach a consensus on 3-5 initiatives, and be prepared to report back in 60 minutes' time.

