

G..Japanese Language School



THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
—  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
VICTORIA

January 4th, 1941.

Tsutae Sato, Esq.,  
Principal,  
Vancouver Japanese Language School,  
475 Alexander Street,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, I beg to inform you that no special application form has been prepared for your use. In section 2 of 13(a) of the 1940 Amendments to the Public Schools Act, it is required that you give the name and address of each instructor and details of the course. This means that you must give an outline of the course to be covered month by month throughout the year.

When a formal application for the operation of a class is received from you, I shall ask one of our Inspectors or some other suitable person to visit you, to inspect the register and other material used in the work and to secure full information as to the objectives and purposes of the school.

Yours very truly,

*S. J. Willis*  
Superintendent of Education.

SJW:LE

CITY  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
FRED HOWLETT, J. P.  
CITY CLERK



TELEPHONE FAIRMONT 2711

VANCOUVER, B.C.

January 21, 1941.

Tsutaе Sato, Esq.,  
Secretary, B.C. Language  
School Association,  
475 Alexander Street,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I beg to invite your attendance at a meeting of the Special Committee appointed to consider the question of Japanese Registration, to be held in No. 2 Committee Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, on Friday next, the 24th instant, at 9.30 a. m.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Howlett".

CITY CLERK.

BHW:MH

# Nippon Kyoritsu Go-Gakko

(JAPANESE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES)

475 ALEXANDER STREET

VANCOUVER, B. C.

January 25, 1941.

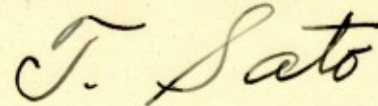
Fred Howlett: J. P.,  
City Clerk,  
City Hall,  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

Dear Sir:

As Alderman Charles Jones, chairman of the Special Committee on the Japanese language school question, requested at the committee meetings held yesterday morning, I am remitting a copy of the form which certifies the incorporation in 1912 of the Maintenance Association which is responsible for the welfare of the school at 475 Alexander Street of which I am the principal.

In 1920 when the name of the Maintenance Association was changed, this step was subsequently recorded at Victoria, hence the two clippings.

Yours very truly,



Principal,  
Japanese Language School.

TS:YH

Encl. 1

CITY  
CLERK'S OFFICE

FRED HOWLETT, J. P.  
CITY CLERK



TELEPHONE FAIRMONT 2711

VANCOUVER, B. C.

April 29, 1941.

T. Sato, Esq.,  
Principal,  
Japanese School of Languages,  
475 Alexander Street,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re Japanese Registration

I beg to invite your attendance at a meeting of the Special Committee to be held in the above matter in No. 2 Committee Room, City Hall, on Friday, May 2nd, 1941, at 10 a.m.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Howlett".

City Clerk.

BHW:W

April 29, 1941.

Alderman Charles Jones,  
Chairman,  
Special City Council Committee  
on Japanese Language Schools,  
City Hall,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

In previous communications to members of your committee as well as in personal representations, I have stressed that our Japanese Language Schools consciously have tried to avoid the teaching of anything that might tend to make Canadian-born Japanese pupils feel less Canadian than they should. Investigations both by yourself and by officials of the Department of Education have, I think, fully cleared the schools of any suggestion of subversive teaching. I am pleased indeed that the Provincial Department has granted us permits allowing the schools to carry on with their work.

Recently however Dr. Harold White submitted a report to your committee in which he declared that health workers were convinced that children attending the language schools suffer in health because of over-strain. It is with this problem that I should like to deal at this time, since it goes to the very root of the situation.

The basic question which we face, I think you will agree, is whether or not a knowledge of the Japanese language is necessary or beneficial to the average Canadian-born Japanese boy or girl. The obvious answer, born of practical experience and observation, is that such knowledge is practically indispensable.

The reasons for this are simple and straightforward. However much we may regret it, it is an established fact that the average Japanese parent is not fluent in the English language. His knowledge may be sufficient for casual relations with employer or customer; it is rarely sufficient for the intimate, personal relations that must be maintained between parents and children.

You will appreciate, Sir, the importance of these relations

in any family. Upon them depends the training of the children, the moulding of their character, the happiness of the home. They determine in no small degree whether a man is to be an asset or a liability to society, what happiness he will attain as a man, what contribution he will make as a citizen to the state. These normal relations are of an abnormal importance in an immigrant family in which there is the constant conflict between an elder generation clinging to old customs, habits and beliefs and a younger generation growing up in a new environment.

I may point with pardonable pride to an amazingly low rate of juvenile delinquency for the Japanese section of the city as an outstanding instance in which these close parent-child relations have benefited the entire community.

Today, as more and more of our young people approach maturity and come face to face with social problems, there is a continuing and grave need to preserve and to deepen the understanding between parents and children.

The second reason why Canadian-born Japanese must learn the Japanese language is equally important. It concerns their prospects of finding employment and making a living.

Today, discrimination and prejudice limit the number of vocational outlets for young Canadian-born Japanese. It is a recognized fact that the large majority of wage-earners of Japanese descent can find employment only (a) from Japanese speaking employers, (b) under Japanese-speaking foremen, or (c) in catering to a Japanese speaking public. The only important exception is the large number of girls who fall back on domestic work because their race shuts them out of more desirable employment.

I have not the slightest doubt that a very large percentage of Canadian-born Japanese earning either salary or wages finds a knowledge of the Japanese language of very great value, if not actually indispensable.

These, then, are the basic facts why it is necessary for Canadian-born Japanese to learn the Japanese language. The very existence of the schools in so many communities is itself evidence of the function they perform. It may be that a knowledge of the language could be acquired in some other way, but as yet no practical

or feasible alternative to a school has yet been devised.

If as Dr. White reports, the schools impose a burden of strain upon the pupils, it is a strain which under present-day conditions cannot be avoided. I am convinced, and thousands of parents and students are likewise, that the benefits which accrue to a pupil from the study of the Japanese language more than outweigh the disadvantages which it may entail.

I should like to assure you, Sir, that we of the B. C. Japanese Language Schools Association are as deeply concerned over the health of our children as is anyone else. The maximum teaching time is limited to one hour a day, for five days of the week. We attempt as far as possible to provide the best conditions of study and protect the physical standards of our pupils, standards, which incidentally, are superior to those of children of corresponding age in Japan. We have, I believe, been of aid to public school health officials in securing the co-operation of parents in putting school health programs into effect. In turn we should welcome any assistance and advice which they should care to make to us in behalf of our pupils.

Yours respectfully,

Tsutaë Satø,  
Secretary, B. C. Japanese  
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Principal, Vancouver  
Japanese Language School.

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Principal, Vancouver  
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G..F.L.S.



THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
VICTORIA

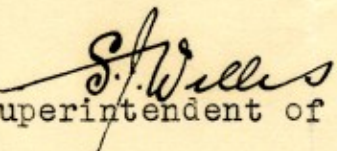
March 5th, 1941.

Tsutae Sato, Esq.,  
Nippon Kyoritsu Go-Gakko,  
475 Alexander St.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo. Shortly after your interview in my office I made an attempt to secure one or two experts to assist your new text book committee but without success so far. Perhaps you yourself know of someone who has time and would be willing to act as technical adviser to your committee.

Yours very truly,

  
Superintendent of Education.

SJW:VM

CITY  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
FRED HOWLETT, J. P.  
CITY CLERK



TELEPHONE FAIRMONT 2711

VANCOUVER, B. C.  
May 28, 1941.

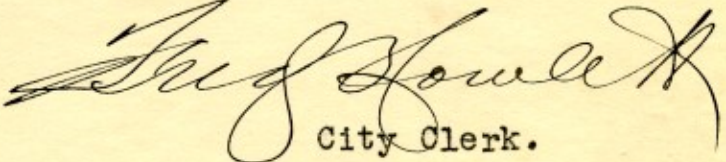
T. Sato, Esq.,  
Secretary,  
B.C. Japanese Language Schools Assn.,  
475 Alexander Street,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I beg to enclose copy of report of the  
Special Committee appointed in connection with  
Japanese Language Schools, which was adopted by  
the City Council on the 26th instant.

I would call your particular attention  
to the recommendations contained on page 3 of  
the report.

Yours very truly,

  
City Clerk.

BHW:W  
Encl.

To His Worship the Mayor and  
Members of the City Council,  
Vancouver, B. C.

May 23, 1941.

Gentlemen:

RE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

Your Special Committee appointed by His Worship the Mayor on January 17th last has held several meetings, some of which were attended by representative members of the Japanese Community in this City, and your Committee has obtained from these representatives, by oral submissions and by written communications, a considerable amount of information relevant to problems incidental to the Japanese people resident in Vancouver.

The circumstances in connection with the appointment of your Committee are that the question of registration of Japanese in the Province was mentioned by Alderman Wilson at the meeting of Council held on January 13th last, and he suggested that a Special Committee be appointed to draft a resolution expressing the views of the Council in connection with the appointment by the Federal Government of a Commission to undertake the registration of Japanese in British Columbia; for report to Council.

At the initial meeting of your Committee held on January 21st, consideration was given to a communication from Mr. T. Sato, Secretary, B.C. Japanese Language School Association, and Principal, Vancouver Japanese Language School, from which the following is an abstract:

"It is with deep regret that we have read press reports of the discussion last Monday in the City Council upon the question of Japanese language schools. If we may judge from the press articles, there would seem to be a very great deal of misunderstanding and misinformation in regard to these institutions, their nature and their work. It is with the hope of correcting the more evident misconceptions and thus clarifying the situation that we address this letter to you."

As a result of this communication, the scope of the Committee has been broadened to include the matters which Mr. Sato had introduced, and as the Government had referred the question of the registration of Japanese in the Province to a Commission under the Chairmanship of Mayor Hume of New Westminster, your Committee proceeded to obtain all the information available with respect to Japanese Language Schools, as their operation presents certain angles which your Committee feels it was warranted to investigate.

On January 24th last the Japanese representatives were subjected to very close interrogation, and a transcript of the questions asked by your Committee and the answers given thereto is on file for reference. Mr. Sato was requested to forward a certified copy of the Declaration which was filed by him when making application for incorporation of the Japanese Language School under the Act, and also certified copy of the By-laws.

Your Committee took exception to certain portions of the text and illustrations contained in the books used in the Japanese Language Classes on the ground that undue stress was laid on matters relating to Japanese imperialism and militarism, and begs to report that, as a result of its representations, the passages complained of have been either removed or obliterated.

The question of the effect upon health which attendance in the Japanese Language Schools might have upon the pupils was referred to Dr. Harold White, Director of School Health Services, and his report on this subject points out that a regular day's work at school combined with the usual amount of homework, is all that most children can accomplish without detriment to their health, and that consequently the Japanese children who are required to spend another session in a Japanese Language School after attending the customary daily classes in public school are subject to a strain which will undoubtedly in some cases prejudicially affect their health.

The Japanese spokesmen maintain that the benefits to parents and students alike which accrue from the teaching of the Japanese language in the schools more than outweigh any disadvantages which may arise from following this course of study.

In response to requests made by your Committee, Mr. Sato has furnished a certified copy of each of the following documents:

1. The registration of the "Vancouver Nippon Kyoritsu Go Gakko (Japanese School of Languages) Maintenance Association" at Victoria under the "Benevolent Societies Act" in December, 1912.
2. The change of the name of the Association to its present one in 1920.
3. The By-laws of the Association as at March 7th, 1941.

Mr. Sato has also furnished the following written undertaking:

"In accordance with our understanding of last Friday's meeting of your committee, permit me to submit this written statement of the undertakings made verbally by myself as Secretary of the B.C. Japanese Language Schools Association.

Firstly, in regard to text books, the last convention of our Association unanimously adopted a resolution favouring the use only of the text books which were approved of by your committee, and copies of which were submitted to you. Actually these are the only books in use now; and I am sure that they will continue to be the only ones used. I feel confident, moreover, that local booksellers will conform to our wishes in public sales of the books.

Secondly, in regard to the health of pupils, I shall place a recommendation before the Association urging the establishment of some system of medical and dental inspection. I should like to point out that the Alexander School, of which I am principal, had at one time established such a service, which unfortunately had to be discontinued because of a lack of finances. I hope we may be able to secure the help of school health authorities and the Civic Health Department in any plan we undertake.

Permit me, in closing, to express to the committee our sincere thanks for the courteous and fair hearing we were accorded at last Friday's meeting. I trust that a like degree of co-operation may attend any discussions which we may have to enter into at any future date."

Your Committee feels that it is appropriate to mention in this report certain matters submitted by the Japanese representatives, particularly as it has been suggested in some quarters that Japanese Language Schools should be abolished:

1. Japanese Language Schools consciously have tried to avoid the teaching of anything that might tend to make Canadian-born Japanese pupils feel less Canadian than they should.
2. A knowledge of the Japanese language is practically indispensable to the average Canadian-born Japanese boy or girl:
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(Continued)

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It is stated that the rate of juvenile delinquency for the Japanese section of the City is very low indeed.

(b) It materially enhances the prospect of obtaining employment.

3. No financial assistance whatever is received from the Japanese Government, either directly or indirectly, so far as the Japanese Language Schools are concerned.

Your Committee begs to submit the following recommendations:

1. That approval be given to a suggestion by the Japanese representatives that the Vancouver School Board be requested to consider the appointment of one of the School Trustees or of some person selected by the School Board to collaborate with the Japanese Language Schools Association in educational matters.
2. That the Provincial Department of Health be requested to investigate the question of the influence of attendance at Japanese Language Schools upon the Health of the pupils, as reported in the communication from Dr. Harold White, Director of Vancouver School Health Services.
3. That the Provincial Department of Education be requested to consider the advisability of passing regulations to provide that all text books used in Japanese Language Schools be subject to the approval of that Department; and in this connection it is suggested that the subject matter of the text books should be of general interest to all Canadians.
4. That the textbooks at present in use in which deletions or obliterations have been made be considered as temporary only, and that a further issue of textbooks be prepared as early as possible.
5. That the Provincial Department of Education be requested to consider the question of making arrangements whereby second-generation naturalised Japanese citizens be appointed as Teachers in all Japanese Language Schools, as such persons possess a Canadian background, instead of teachers brought from Japan who naturally possess a Japanese background.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) "J. W. Cornett" \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

(Sgd.) "Chas. Jones" \_\_\_\_\_ Alderman  
Chairman

(Sgd.) "Geo. Buscombe" \_\_\_\_\_  
Alderman

(Sgd.) "Halford D. Wilson" \_\_\_\_\_  
Alderman

CITY  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
FRED HOWLETT, J. P.  
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VANCOUVER, B. C.

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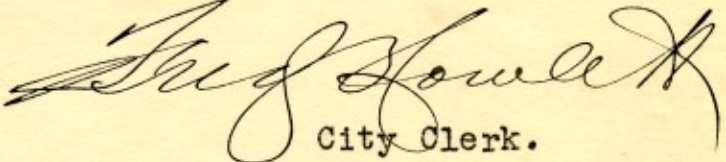
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Chairman

(Sgd.) "Geo. Buscombe" \_\_\_\_\_  
Alderman

(Sgd.) "Halford D. Wilson" \_\_\_\_\_  
Alderman

As at June 26th, 1941.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS GIVEN PERMISSION TO  
OPERATE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

.....

<u>SCHOOLS</u>	<u>PRINCIPALS</u>	
Ocean Falls Nippon Gogakko	Y. Mukai, R. R. 1, New Westminster	
Duncan Japanese Language Sch.	K. Kawaguchi, Duncan.	Temporary approval only
Cumberland Japanese Language School	T. Oda, P. O. Box 129, Cumberland.	
Victoria Japanese Language School	Rev. Yutaka Ogura, 857 Pandora Ave., Victoria.	
Nanaimo Kyoritsu Nippon Gogakko	Shinkuro Kozai, 141 Chelsea St., Nanaimo	Temporary approval only
Woodfibre Japanese Language Sch.	Sonoko Suyama, Woodfibre	
Kelowna Japanese Language Sch.	Rev. Yoshinosuke Yoshioka, Box 163, Kelowna.	
Clayburn Nippon Gogakko	Yasuyo Sekine, Clayburn.	
Hillcrest Nippon Gogakko	Mrs. Hana Takemura, Hillcrest Lumber Co., Duncan.	
Mayo Japanese School,	Mrs. Tami Miwa, Paldi.	
Skeena Nippon Gogakko	S. Nakogawa, Port Essington.	
Haney Japanese Language Sch.	Y. Yamaga, R. R. 1, Haney.	Temporary approval only
Hillcrest Punjabi Language School	Man Singh, c/o Hillcrest Lumber Co., Duncan.	

SCHOOLS

Koko-Gakuyen,  
621 Fulton St.,  
Prince Rupert.

Port Hammond Japanese  
Language School

Tamato Gakuen Japanese Lang-  
uage School,  
Mt. Lehman.

Tofino Japanese Language Sch.

Whonock Japanese Language Sch.

French, Spanish, German Lang-  
uage School

Fanny Bay Japanese Language  
School

Japanese Language School.

Ucluelet Gogakko

PRINCIPALS

Mrs. M. Kanaya,  
P. O. Box 886,  
Prince Rupert

Mrs. U. Oka,  
P. O. Box 148,  
Port Hammond.

Y. Miki,  
P. O. Bradner,  
Lombard, B.C.

Masa Nakai,  
Tofino.

M. Nabeta,  
Whonock P.O.

F. Scheefhals,  
709 Dunsmuir St.,  
Vancouver.

Kumagaya Kiro,  
R. R. #1,  
Fanny Bay.

Tsutae Sato,  
1828 Pandora St.,  
Vancouver.

T. Shinozaki,  
Ucluelet.

Temporary approval  
only.

Temporary approval  
only.

As at June 26th, 1941.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SCHOOLS GIVEN PERMISSION TO  
OPERATE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

.....

<u>SCHOOLS</u>	<u>PRINCIPALS</u>	
Ocean Falls Nippon Gogakko	Y. Mukai, R. R. 1, New Westminster	
Duncan Japanese Language Sch.	K. Kawaguchi, Duncan.	Temporary approval only
Cumberland Japanese Language School	T. Oda, P. O. Box 129, Cumberland.	
Victoria Japanese Language School	Rev. Yutaka Ogura, 857 Pandora Ave., Victoria.	
Nanaimo Kyoritsu Nippon Gogakko	Shinkuro Kozai, 141 Chelsea St., Nanaimo	Temporary approval only
Woodfibre Japanese Language Sch.	Sonoko Suyama, Woodfibre	
Kelowna Japanese Language Sch.	Rev. Yoshinosuke Yoshioka, Box 163, Kelowna.	
Clayburn Nippon Gogakko	Yasuyo Sekine, Clayburn.	
Hillcrest Nippon Gogakko	Mrs. Hana Takemura, Hillcrest Lumber Co., Duncan.	
Mayo Japanese School,	Mrs. Tami Miwa, Paldi.	
Skeena Nippon Gogakko	S. Nakogawa, Port Essington.	
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# Nippon Kyoritsu Co-Gakko

(JAPANESE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES)

475 ALEXANDER STREET  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

November 5, 1941.

Dr. S. J. Willis,  
Superintendent of Education,  
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I am very pleased indeed to be able to write you this letter to inform you that I have returned from Japan without any mishap aboard the Hikawa Maru just last Saturday, November 1st.

During my somewhat prolonged stay in Japan, I had the good fortune to secure the criticisms of a few noted educationalists on Book I of the proposed series of new texts for the Japanese language schools in B. C. These gentlemen suggested a few improvements in the text. However, these changes--as you will be able to judge for yourself when I show them to you--have not affected the meaning of the context.

Due to the international situation, the publication of the text will have to be done in Canada. In this regard, I would like to have your advice on the subject of printing and illustrations. Accordingly, I would be much obliged if you could favour me with an interview shortly. Saturday morning, November 15, will be agreeable with me if it is satisfactory with you.

Yours very truly,



T. Sato.

TS/YH



# Nippon Kyoritsu Go-Gakko

(JAPANESE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES)

475 ALEXANDER STREET

VANCOUVER, B. C.

TEXTUAL CHANGES MADE IN BOOK I, JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL TEXT

page 18.

See-saw, see-saw.  
Swing to and fro, see-saw.  
The woods and the mountains are moving too.

changed to:

Swing to and fro, see-saw.  
The woods, the mountains are moving too.

page 19

See-saw, see-saw.  
Swing to and fro, see-saw.  
The sun is still high (in the heavens).

changed to:

Swing to and fro, see-saw.  
The sun is still high (in the heavens).

pages 36 and 37

A white sea gull is flying.  
"Sui, sui, sui" they are flying ("sui, sui" is onomatopoeic)

Away it flies only to come back.  
"Sui, sui, sui" it comes flying back.

changed to:

The sea gulls are flying  
"Sui, sui" they are flying.

"Sui, sui"...they go.  
"Sui, sui"...they come back.

"Sui, sui"...Sea gulls.  
They go and they come back.

# Nippon Kyoritsu Go-Gakko

(JAPANESE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES)

475 ALEXANDER STREET

VANCOUVER, B. C.

#2.

pages 40 and 41.

The sunflowers have blossomed.  
They are big yellow flowers.  
They are all facing towards the sun.  
They are shining like golden dishes.

changed to:

The sunflowers have blossomed.  
They are big yellow flowers.  
They are all facing in the direction of the sun and  
are smiling.  
They are as beautiful as golden dishes.

page 46.

The lilies have blossomed.  
Count and see how many have bloomed.  
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

changed to:

The lilies have blossomed.  
Let us count and see how many have bloomed.  
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

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G. F.L.S.



THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
VICTORIA

November 13, 1941.

T. Sato, Esq.,  
Japanese School of Languages,  
475 Alexander Street,  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your kind letter of the 12th instant I now regret to inform you that as I have developed a bad cold I shall not be able to make the trip to Vancouver on Friday afternoon's boat and cannot meet you on Saturday morning as expected.

You very kindly invited me to lunch or dinner on Saturday but I had already invited Mr. Lord and Mr. MacCorkindale to meet me for lunch at the Hotel and I had a dinner engagement the same afternoon.

I hope to be in Vancouver on November 22nd and will try to see you at 9:30 for a short time the same morning.

Yours very truly,

*S. J. Willis*  
Superintendent of Education.

SJW:ER

# Nippon Kyoritsu Go-Gakko

(JAPANESE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES)

475 ALEXANDER STREET  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

December 8, 1941.

Dr. S. J. Willis,  
Superintendent of Education,  
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to inform you that we have suspended classes in our Japanese Language School for the time being. I talked the matter over with Mr. H. E. Patterson, principal of the Strathcona Public School of this city, and our conclusions coincided. Shortly after my conversation with Mr. Patterson I received word from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Headquarters in Vancouver, suggesting that we take this very same move.

Other schools in the city have followed suit, and I have had letters sent to all the principals of the schools throughout the province which are affiliated with the B.C. Japanese Language Schools Association, advising them to take similar steps.

Our main reason for suspending classes is fairly obvious. We are simply taking care not to prejudice any further the feelings of our Occidental neighbours. Furthermore, the blackout itself with its attending hazards for children puts a stop to all school attendance.

Yours very truly,

*T. Sato*

T. Sato.

TS/YH