

Citizenship Defense Committee

Shuichi Sasaki
Chairman

39 GRANT STREET
TORONTO, ONT.

Ryotaro Nobuoka
Treasurer
Kunio Hidaka
Executive Secretary

January 17, 1946.

Dear Friend:

You are, no doubt, already aware of the strong, nation-wide public protest against the Government's attempt to remove from Canada some thousands of persons of Japanese ancestry.

This campaign to stop deportation and expulsion is being carried on with the active support of Senators, Members of Parliament, leading newspapers, organized labour, churches, and numerous other organizations and individuals representing all sections of the general public.

Much of this support was organized by the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, composed of sixty Toronto organizations, and similar citizens' committees in Montreal, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Since last Spring, they have worked unceasingly to inform the public of the true facts and circumstances by publishing literature, speaking to meetings, contacting newspapers and the radio, and using every other means of public information. As a result, the public is now demanding that the Government stop deportation, and send away only persons who will leave voluntarily.

From the first, legal opinion has questioned the validity of the proposed deportation plan. Pressure from the people has now succeeded in having the whole matter referred to the Supreme Court of Canada, where hearings will start on January 24.

Funds are required for both the Court case and mobilizing greater pressure on the Government.

The Citizenship Defense Committee, a joint body of Issei and Nisei, as an affiliate-member of the Co-operative Committee, must meet its quota of expenses. The urgency and importance of success in this campaign for the whole future welfare of Japanese in Canada, demands generous contributions. Our objective for Ontario is 3000 dollars. This means a minimum donation of at least two dollars from each working person, and larger amounts according to individual means and sentiment.

The need for funds is urgent. We will appreciate your acting immediately within the next week. The entire financial campaign should be concluded before the end of January. We would like you to write and tell us about your progress.

If you live in an area with other Japanese, you are urged to form your own committee and carry out a personal canvass. Send your total contribution, with an itemized list of each contributor and his contribution, together with the name and address of your chairman, to the Citizenship Defense Committee, where the total amount will be officially acknowledged and receipted.

If you live in an area away from Japanese persons, we request that you send your contribution directly to the Citizenship Defense Committee, where all amounts will be officially receipted.

Similar financial drives are being conducted in other provinces. It is our intention to pool our resources and form a national reserve fund of 10,000 dollars. Even after we have won a favourable settlement in this deportation attempt, there are many other restrictions which must be removed. This can be done by the combined efforts of all the people in their support of legal action and political and public education.

We shall continue our campaign until we have reached our further objective of full rights and privileges of citizenship, on a basis equal with other Canadians, for all persons of Japanese ancestry. In these efforts, the measure of our success depends entirely on your wise counsel, and moral and material support.

Sincerely yours,

Kunio Hidaka
Kunio Hidaka,
Executive Secretary.