

67 Rose Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario,

September 12, 1950.

National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association,  
Attention of Mr. George Tanaka, Executive Secretary,  
61 College Street,  
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

It is now three months since the report of the Royal Commission on Japanese Property was made public. You will recall that during meetings of the Joint Committee, representatives of the Toronto Claimants Committee repeatedly emphasized the fact that the primary need in order to gain more adequate compensation for evacuation losses was to take decisive action which was timed to coincide with the publishing of the report.

At that time we foresaw that the Government would consider the entire matter of economic losses of evacuation a closed issue, if claimants accepted the Royal Commission report without protest. Although you failed to take heed of our warnings, the correctness of our position is clearly indicated, first, by the Royal Commission report itself which states that claims amounted to more than \$7 million, but the awards total only \$1,200,000; and secondly, by a recent move on the part of the Custodian to get statements from the claimants which state that they will make no further claims on the Custodian, upon receipt of the award of the Royal Commission.

We may now say that our warnings of last Spring were well-founded and that our recommendation for vigorous action should have been accepted by the National Committee of the JCCA. But our policy was not adopted by the JCCA and the most appropriate time for the campaign is now past; nevertheless, a burden of responsibility still remains on the National Executive Committee and you are still obliged to continue with the work of economic losses.

You will recall that early this year when the Joint Committee of representatives of the Toronto Claimants Committee and the National Executive Committee met with a view to planning a common program to extend the scope of claims and to raise the amounts to be received in awards, the JCCA presented a comprehensive plan of action which was to be implemented as soon as the Royal Commission reported.

At a recent meeting of the Co-operative Committee it was decided that further action on economic losses would be left to the JCCA. It appears that the channels are now clear for the JCCA to open its campaign for full reimbursement for all losses. Any further delay would only work against evacuees. We believe that any plans you have should be made public in order that full support may be assured.



It should not be necessary for us to remind you that when the first work on economic losses of evacuation was initiated by the JCCD and continued by the JCCA, there was no distinction between losses suffered in the hands of the Custodian and those from other sources. It was the intention at that time to press the Government for all losses for which they were responsible by having ordered the evacuation.

Then when the terms of reference were announced, it was found that they did not provide the means for compensating all losses but only those resulting from sales by the Custodian. Because the terms were too exclusive, a large number of persons in Toronto advocated a complete boycott of the Royal Commission, and when they proposed this action, they had considerable support from the public who were aware of the limitations.

Mr. Brewin however argued in favour of filing claims on grounds that the findings of the Royal Commission could be used as "concrete proof of loss" in later instances when making representations to the Government for all evacuation losses. It was on his advice, directed through the National JCCA, that these persons decided to postpone their protest and submit their claims to the Royal Commission.

You will also recall that the JCCA was largely instrumental in getting claimants to accept the overall settlement of Mr. Justice Bird in the Spring of 1949, and that the offer was accepted by claimants in all instances under protest. You were aware that the expressed desire of claimants was to make this protest effective by further representations to the Government.

Now that the Government has agreed to pay the amounts recommended by the Royal Commission and has recognised thereby that there is "concrete proof of loss", every effort should be made to follow the course of action originally outlined by Mr. Brewin. A large number of evacuees remember your statements and are depending on you to carry out the announced program. If the JCCA does not make an honest effort to complete the plan then it may be charged that it first encouraged persons to accept the terms of reference on the pretext of further action, but then abandoned plan later merely because a section of the evacuees received a small measure of compensation.

You cannot deny that the JCCA is committed to carrying out the plan of action for full compensation of all economic losses which was agreed to in principle at the first National Conference, and developed in further detail last Spring when it was presented to meetings of the Joint Committee. You still owe a duty to those evacuees who, although they realized that their losses were not covered by the terms of reference, nevertheless, refrained from protest because of the advice of the counsel of the Co-operative Committee and of the JCCA in order to conform with the overall strategy which was prescribed.

The Toronto Claimants Committee now urges that the National Executive Committee study the report of the Royal Commission and use the losses disclosed by Mr. Justice Bird as the basis for making vigorous representations to the Government for compensation for all evacuation losses. We urge



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that this action be taken promptly before the Government closes the matter of economic losses for all time.

As representatives of claimants, we are keenly aware of the feelings and sentiments of evacuees whose losses have not been fully compensated by the awards of the Royal Commission. You are still able to correct to some degree the serious mistakes you made in the past, when you refused to heed our advice; and as a responsible and representative organization, it is your task and duty to pursue the action necessary to cope with the problems of re-imbusement as they now face us. We hope that you will show that the great trust which has been placed in your organization has been well-placed.

Yours very truly,

TORONTO CLAIMANTS COMMITTEE,

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S. Takashima, Chairman.

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