



Japanese Canadian Citizens Association Bulletin

Greater Vancouver Chapter

Box 2108, Main P.O., Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3T5

June 29, 1984

TO: Members of the Greater Vancouver
Japanese Canadian Community

FROM: J.C.C.A. Redress Steering Committee

Despite what you may have heard through the news media, the Japanese Canadian redress program is progressing strongly. At a council meeting held in Winnipeg on June 2-3, our National Association of Japanese Canadians (the NAJC, formerly the National J.C.C.A.) passed a motion to accept a draft of a Redress Brief asking the Canadian Government to undertake negotiations with the Japanese Canadian community on the redress issue. This Brief, when it is presented shortly, will be the first time our community has officially approached the government to acknowledge the injustices suffered by Japanese Canadians during and after World War II.

We have enclosed a "Redress Update" to inform you of recent developments in the redress campaign both locally and nationally.

The Vancouver J.C.C.A. Board, recognizing the importance of the redress issue for each and every Japanese Canadian, has established a Redress Steering Committee to plan and initiate a redress program for our Greater Vancouver area community. Specifically, this Steering Committee has been asked to perform two tasks:

1. To inform Japanese Canadians in the Greater Vancouver area on redress issues and activities at both the national and local levels;
2. To co-ordinate the election of a representative J.C.C.A. Redress Committee in September 1984.

To carry out these tasks with the co-operation and support of a broad spectrum of community members, the Steering Committee invites your participation and advice. We have scheduled a special meeting for July 9, 1984, at 7:30 p.m., to be held at the Japanese Language School (475 Alexander Street).

For more information, or if you would like to attend but cannot, please phone Roy Miki (732-7760) or Irene Nemeth (926-0942); in Japanese, call Tatsuo Kage (324-1254). If you have friends or relatives who have expressed a concern for redress, and who could contribute to the work of the Steering Committee, please ask them to phone also.

Come and offer your ideas and support to make sure that our community gets involved in the J.C.C.A. redress program. We look forward to your attendance.

REDRESS UPDATE

The National Program

The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) is presently made up of delegates from 15 centres: Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Montreal. Policies are determined by the NAJC Council and carried out by the NAJC President, Art Miki; the National Executive Committee (NEC) and various committees. The National Executive Office of the NAJC is located at 735 Ash Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0R5.

The following is a review of the redress strategy adopted at the most recent NAJC Council meeting held in Winnipeg on June 2 and 3, 1984.

1. The first stage of the redress program is the submission of a redress brief to the Government of Canada. This brief would outline the historic case for redress and call upon the government to enter into negotiations with the NAJC for a settlement of the claim by Japanese Canadians for damages suffered as a result of unwarranted and unjust policies made by the Federal Government during and after WWII. (Brief Committee, chaired by Tony Nabata, Ottawa delegate, and made up of other Council members as well as volunteer workers from various parts of the country, was delegated to prepare the document. The Brief Committee presented its first draft, Democracy Betrayed: The Case for Redress, at the June 2nd Council meeting. After suggesting revisions, the NAJC Council accepted the draft as the claims document that would be presented to the Government. The final document is to be printed by July 17 and submitted at the earliest, opportune moment).
2. Once the brief is accepted the NAJC will negotiate with the Government for funds and a suitable time period to complete the research for a comprehensive claims document that would analyze such areas as economic losses, social impact, legal precedents, related constitutional issues to protect democratic rights, etc. (The NAJC Council empowered the president to form a committee to prepare a proposal for this research program).
3. After completion of the final claims document, the NAJC Council will formulate a proposal for the settlement of the claim. Council delegates will then return to their respective centres to gain support and ratification for the redress settlement from their constituency. Finally, the NAJC will negotiate the settlement with the Government.

Recent Developments in the NAJC Redress Campaign

1. At the June 2-3, Council meeting, Harold Hirose, NAJC treasurer, announced the receipt of a grant of \$42,000 from the Multicultural Directorate, Secretary of State.
2. The NAJC Council authorized the NEC to form a sub-committee on public relations to conduct a national campaign to explain and obtain support for the redress program from the Japanese Canadian community and the general public.
3. The NAJC Council adopted the proposed national budget of \$240,000 and formed an enlarged fund-raising committee to design a national campaign to obtain the budget. (Each centre is responsible for a portion of the budget based on their population base; three-quarters of that amount will go to the NAJC while the rest will be used for local campaigns).
4. On June 17, NAJC President, Art Miki called an emergency telephone conference of the Council, which voted to immediately dissolve the National Redress Committee (NRC), (The NRC Chairman, George Imai, had threatened to withhold his "co-operation" from the Council and to go public with his opposition to the NAJC). The Council also voted to reject the Government's expected offer for "Global" compensation, i.e. a proposed \$5,000,000 general fund to be used to fight racial injustice. Art Miki then sent a telegram to the Multicultural Directorate informing them of the dissolution of the NRC, the NAJC Council's affirmation of the fact that the President is the only official spokesman for the NAJC and finally, the rejection of the proposal for a "global" trust fund as a settlement of the Japanese Canadian redress issue.
5. On June 20, David Collenette, Minister of Multiculturalism, held a press conference in which he expressed "regret" for the injustices suffered by Japanese Canadians and proposed a global fund to combat racism. He further stated that no apology can be given since it would "retroactively condemn the legitimate actions of the Canadian Government". No direct compensation was offered to Japanese Canadians.
6. Leaders of ethnic organizations, such as Milton Harris, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, criticized this position voiced by Mr. Collenette. Editorials in major newspapers, such as the Globe and Mail and the Vancouver Sun, added their support to the growing protest of the government's position on redress.
7. Prominent members of the Japanese Canadian community (Ken Adachi, Joy Kogawa, Thomas Shoyama, Dr. David Suzuki, Roger Obata, and Stan Hiraki) sent a joint telegram criticizing the Government's "unilateral and undemocratic decision" and reaffirmed their full support of Art Miki as the only official spokesman of the NAJC. Some NAJC Council

members, including Charles Kadota, Vancouver JCCA President, also sent similar telegrams. In all, over 40 telegrams were received by the Government.

8. The NAJC has decided to continue its redress campaign with the new government, headed by Prime Minister John Turner.
9. All Liberal leadership candidates have already been polled to gain their commitment to negotiate the redress issue with the NAJC. All candidates, except Eugene Whelan, have responded favorably. A commitment to negotiate had been received earlier from the new leader of the opposition, Brian Mulroney.
10. Copies of the final draft of Democracy Betrayed: The Case for Redress have been sent to NAJC Council members for approval. Members of the Brief Committee in Vancouver have begun the first production stages for printing the brief.

Redress in the Greater Vancouver Area

1. At the Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver JCCA on April 29, 1984, a new Board of Directors was voted in. At their first meeting on May 14 they elected the following officers: President - Charles Kadota, Vice Chairperson - Mayu Takasaki, Treasurer - Bob Iwata, General Secretary - Frank Kamiya, Recording Secretary - Teresa Kobayashi. In addition, Roy Miki and Tamio Wakayama were elected as the temporary redress representatives and alternate to represent Vancouver, along with President Charles Kadota, at the NAJC Council meeting on June 2-3.
2. At the next JCCA Board meeting on June 11, a redress steering committee, chaired by Roy Miki, was appointed to initiate a local redress program.
3. The following proposals, presented by the steering committee, were adopted by the Board of Directors at their meeting on June 25:
 - 3:1 That a broadly based, representative redress committee be formed at the extraordinary general meeting called for September 23, 1984 and that the Steering Committee submit plans for nomination and voting procedures. This Committee would conduct the local redress program and represent the Greater Vancouver area on the NAJC Council.
 - 3:2 That the Steering Committee be expanded to include concerned individuals and representatives of major organizations and that all meetings be open to the public. The first meeting was scheduled for July 9.



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3:3 That Irene Nemeth and Ken Shikaze be delegated as co-ordinators to develop a list of volunteers to assist with the redress program.

TO: 3:4 That a display area be set up at the JCCA picnic and the Powell St. Festival to inform the community of JCCA activities, including the redress campaign, and to distribute relevant materials.

FROM: 3:5 That a public meeting be organized for the evening of August 3 at the Japanese Language School to publicize the September 23 JCCA general meeting, to inform the public of the redress campaign, both locally and nationally, and to conduct a redress panel discussion: invitations to participate on the panel will be sent to Joy Kogawa, Dr. David Suzuki, Ann Sunahara, Thomas Shoyama. Tim Otani, Regional Director, Pacific Northwest District of the Japanese American Citizens League will also be invited to report on the Japanese American redress movement.

4. A fund-raising committee, chaired by Charles Kadota, was delegated to submit a budget for the JCCA (including the \$56,000 portion of the NAJC budget) and to organize a fund-raising campaign to secure this amount.

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Come and offer your ideas and support to make sure that our community gets involved in the J.C.C.A. redress program. We look forward to your attendance.

~ my group

Redress is very broad

if redress is ~~defined~~ as ~~\$6500 million~~
many people are opposed

Charlie mentioned education

most of us did go through

it, but were young

defense
side

1. Selecting representatives
to the Redress Committee

2. Fundraising
or whatever

they have to put to bed
the perceived goal
or at least my

Meaning of Redress

If ~~most~~ ^{people} people are
under the impression
that redress means
~~some~~ individual
compensation -

When figures are in
the order of \$500 million

Agree with Mr. Miller
that the decision of form of
redress must be agreed
upon and then put to
a referendum