



Minister of State Ministre d'État
Multiculturalism Multiculturalisme

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Mr Henry Wakabayashi
Chairman
Japanese Canadian Citizens Association
Greater Vancouver Chapter
P.O. Box 2108
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APR 10 1985
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Dear Mr Wakabayashi:

Thank you for your letter of February 25 conveying the resolution passed at a community forum in Steveston, sponsored by your organization.

As you know, over the past six months, my officials and I have held discussions with the Japanese Canadian community to seek a wide cross-section of views on a solution to the issue of redress. The National Association of Japanese Canadians played an important role in the deliberations. The process was never one of negotiation, but rather one of consultation.

The government expected that Parliament might extend a formal acknowledgement of the injustices. To this end, the government sought agreement from the two Opposition parties for a joint resolution. Their leaders refused.

Individual payments to Japanese Canadians were never contemplated, nor will we consider such compensation in the future. Redress is a moral issue, and this government believes that no amount of money could compensate for the damage done by the arbitrary actions of a government some forty years ago.

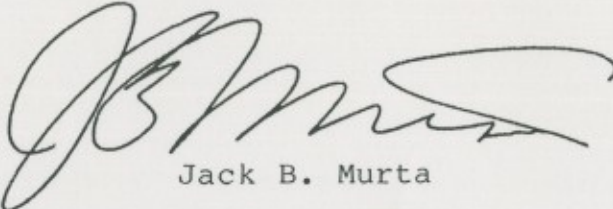
The government has offered to establish a memorial Foundation for all Canadians. We suggested that a majority of Japanese Canadians serve on its Board of Directors. Depending upon its ultimate purpose, such a Foundation could fund research, support cultural endeavours, recognize outstanding achievement and further the cause of minority rights and racial justice in Canada.

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I would like to reiterate that I am ready at any time to continue discussions on this matter. I am still hopeful that the debate will allow us to deal with the issue in an honourable and just fashion and ensure that this kind of incident does not happen again.

Yours sincerely,



Jack B. Murta

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