

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL JAPANESE CANADIAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

(As adopted by the National Conference, March 26th-29th, 1948)

PREAMBLE

We, Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry assembled at the first National Conference held at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario in the Dominion of Canada from the 30th day of August, to the 2nd day of September, 1947, inclusive, do hereby solemnly constitute the National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association on this, the said 2nd day of September, A.D. 1947. This national organization is formed with the primary aim to enable Japanese Canadian organizations throughout Canada to work together as a unified whole and undertake collective action for the betterment of the political, social, moral and economic welfare of Canadians of Japanese ancestry and who shall conscientiously discharge the duties and responsibilities inherent in Canadian citizenship and shall thereby be in a better position to merit the rights and privileges thereof. The National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association shall pledge its unstinted efforts toward the development of a true Canadian democratic social order wherein fundamental civil rights and liberties are accorded all citizens. The National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association shall regard its work as a contribution to the work of the United Nations for the well-being and happiness of future generations.

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the National Japanese Canadian Citizens Association.

Section 2. The organization shall be hereinafter referred to as the National J.C.C.A.

ARTICLE II

Nature of Organization: The organization shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian in nature.

ARTICLE III HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the National J.C.C.A. shall be such city in the Dominion of Canada as shall have been designated by the National Council assembled at a National Conference.

ARTICLE IV AIMS AND OBJECTS

The aims and objects of the National J.C.C.A. shall be:

Section 1. To strive for equal civil rights and liberties for ALL citizens of the Dominion of Canada, irrespective of race, colour, creed, national origin, or sex.

Section 2. To render the maximum Japanese Canadian contribution to the aggregate pattern and mosaic of Canadian modes of living, and to further the assimilation of all Japanese Canadians into our national life.

Section 3. To strive for and protect in conjunctive co-operation with other similar groups the civil rights of all minority groups within Canada inclusive of the Japanese Canadian group and to abolish restrictive measures still imposed or may be imposed thereon.

Section 4. To promote and encourage among Canadians of Japanese ancestry cultural, educational, social and recreational activities conducive to better Canadian citizenship.

Section 5. To unify all Japanese Canadian organizations striving for common objectives and to channel all efforts therefore under central administration.

Section 6. To stress to Canadians of Japanese ancestry the duties, obligations and responsibilities inherent in Canadian citizenship and encourage them to become more conscious of citizenship and thereby merit all the rights and privileges thereof.

Section 7. To represent and present wherever and whenever possible to other groups and organizations the interests of Canadians of Japanese ancestry in national, provincial and local matters and to bring to the notice of such other groups and organizations problems and questions affecting the Japanese Canadian group.

ARTICLE V TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The National JCCA shall be based on a Provincial Chapter System.

Section 2. The Provincial Chapter shall be defined as the representative organization of the respective province and shall be composed of the various individual organizations of said province. The Provincial Chapters shall agree to comply with and abide by the constitution and by-laws of the National J.C.C.A.

Section 3. The local organizations within any province which constitute a provincial chapter shall retain their local autonomy until such time as a true chapter system can be adopted therein.

ARTICLE VI CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The provincial organizations; namely, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, represented at the first National Conference herein as aforesaid who are in agreement with and have ratified these presents and who have thereby constituted themselves as provincial chapters within the national framework shall be and are member chapters of the National J.C.C.A.

Section 2. Other representative provincial organizations not duly constituted at the first National Conference as aforesaid shall, if so desired, be constituted and become member chapters by and upon a majority approval of the National Council.

ARTICLE VII ACTIVITIES

The aims and objects of the National J.C.C.A. shall be expressed and executed in the activities listed hereunder:

Section 1. To combat discriminatory practices directed against minority groups.

- (a) Undertaking research for the purpose of gathering evidence of such discrimination.
- (b) Informing the public of such evidence through the use of public services for the purpose of gaining their support.
- (c) Making representation to legislative members through members of parliament and senate, and civic officials.
- (d) Working in close co-operation with other groups which are actively engaged in such work.

Section 2. To organize, promote and sponsor programs, projects and activities among Japanese Canadians in order that they may be able to render maximum contribution to the development of Canadian national life and to inculcate in them a deeper consciousness of the duties and obligations commensurate with good Canadian citizenship.

Section 3. To co-operate with other organizations whose educational, cultural, social and recreational activities render a contribution to the development of Canadian national life.

Section 4. To engage in such other projects, programs and activities as may be decided upon from time to time by the National Council so long as they comply with this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PROVINCIAL CHAPTERS

A. RIGHTS

Member provincial chapters shall have the following rights:

Section 1. To send three (3) official delegates to the National Conference, or in lieu thereof, a lesser number who shall act as proxy for absentee delegates for all voting and other business matters, with the proviso that each chapter shall send at least one delegate to such National Conference.

Section 2. To submit proposals for the deliberation of the National Council in conference.

Section 3. To apply to the National Council or to the National Executive Committee for financial and/or moral aid in the solution of provincial problems or other contingencies requiring national aid. The governing bodies thus applied to as aforesaid shall consider either by correspondence or by special sessions convened in the shortest possible time thereafter such application or applications and render an executive decision and give aid and support wherever possible.

B. OBLIGATION

Every provincial chapter duly constituted herein as aforesaid in Article VI, Section 1 and 2 shall be subject to the following obligations:

Section 1. Abide by the constitution and by-laws of the National J.C.C.A. and strive

to carry out the decisions of the National Council and the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. Participate in the general activities of the National J.C.C.A. wherever possible.

Section 3. Co-operate with other organizations having similar aims and objects, having regard to these presents.

Section 4. Prohibit within the organization concerned any dissemination of ideas or concepts of hatred or discrimination against any group on grounds of race, colour, social status, religious or political belief; or the dissemination of theories calculated to incite members to discriminatory acts or utterance.

Section 5. Send monthly written reports to the National Office regarding provincial activity.

ARTICLE IX GOVERNING BODIES

The governing bodies of the National J.C.C.A. shall be the National Council and the National Executive Committee.

A. NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1. The legislative powers of the National J.C.C.A. shall be vested in the National Council which shall be composed of the elected officers, immediate past president, the Executive Secretary, the Chairman of the Executive Committee and all the official delegates to the National Conference.

Section 2. The elective officers of the National Council shall be the President, two (2) Vice-Presidents and Treasurer. The elective officers shall be active members of Japanese ancestry holding Canadian citizenship either by birth or by naturalization and shall be at least twenty-one years of age, except the President who shall be at least twenty-five years of age. Such officers shall be elected by the majority vote of the delegates at the National Conference.

Section 3. All elective officers as aforesaid shall hold office from national conference to national conference.

Section 4. Business between Council officers and/or members between conferences shall be conducted by correspondence or wire unless exigent issues dictate otherwise.

Section 5. Each member of the National Council is entitled to one vote; proxy vote by letter or wire shall be permissible wherever personal attendance is rendered impossible.

Section 6. The quorum necessary for conducting business of the National Council shall be a three-fifths majority of the members thereof.

Section 7. The National Council shall, during its tenure of office, formulate the policies and general program of activities of the National J.C.C.A. for the period following the National Conference at which it shall have been elected.

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Section 8. The National Council shall appoint the National Executive Committee after a slate of officers thereof shall have been submitted in writing by a special committee also appointed by the National Council.

Section 9. It shall appoint and determine the salary of the National Executive Secretary for the next ensuing period following a National Conference, or in lieu thereof delegate the work to the National Executive Committee.

B. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive powers of the National J.C.C.A. shall be vested in the National Executive Committee which shall be appointed by the National Council at the National Conference. It shall be the governing body of the National J.C.C.A. between National Conferences and shall be appointed in or near the interim headquarters chosen between conferences. A minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty (20) shall be so appointed.

Section 2. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be composed of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry. Only such persons shall be entitled to vote on all matters. Persons of non-Japanese extraction shall by and upon approval of the National Council be appointed to the said Committee, but their office shall be consultative only.

Section 3. The elective officers of the National Executive Committee shall be the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Recording Secretary, and the Treasurer who shall all be elected by the said Committee as soon as possible after the National Conference.

Section 4. All elective officers shall hold office from one national conference to the next ensuing national conference. It shall execute the policies laid down by the National Council. It shall assist and supervise the work of the National Executive Secretary. It shall be empowered to augment its membership from time to time as necessity may dictate. It shall also be empowered to institute other programs subject to the approval of the National Council.

Section 5. The National Executive Committee may constitute such standing and special committees as it shall from time to time consider necessary; it shall name the convenor of each such committee so constituted and refer to it any matter for study and/or report.

Section 6. In constituting any special committee the National Executive Committee may name as a member thereof any person whom the National Executive Committee selects. Every committee when constituted by the National Executive Committee may, with the consent of the Chairman of the said Executive Committee add any further members who are considered able to assist in the work of the special committee.

Section 7. The National Executive Committee, if the National Council so delegates,

shall appoint the National Executive Secretary upon recommendation of the National Council and shall determine the salary of such National Executive Secretary who shall be a full-time paid officer of this organization.

Section 8. It shall reserve the power to appoint other full or part-time workers and/or to determine if they should receive remuneration and if so, what sums.

Section 9. The National Executive Committee shall meet not less than once per calendar month and shall send minutes of each meeting to every Council member and executive committee member.

Section 10. Each member thereof shall be entitled to one vote at Committee meetings. The quorum at such committee meetings shall be the majority of these present provided that no quorum shall exist unless at least one-half of the standing members are present.

Section 11. The National Executive Committee shall appoint three auditors within one month subsequent to the holding of a National Conference.

Section 12. It shall supervise all expenditures to be incurred by the office of the National Headquarters.

Section 13. The annual National budget for the period following a National Conference shall be submitted to the provincial chapters by the National Executive Committee at least one month prior to the holding of the National Conference and approved by the National Council in Conference.

Section 14. It shall be responsible for instituting the annual fund drive for the purpose of raising the National Budget.

Section 15. It shall enforce all fines and penalties in accordance with the Constitution.

ARTICLE X NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Section 1. The administrative powers of this organization shall be vested in the National Executive Secretary.

Section 2. The National Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the National Council in Conference, or if so delegated, by the said National Council by the National Executive Committee upon the recommendation and approval of the National Council.

Section 3. The office of the National Executive Secretary shall be in the city or town selected by the National Council as the interim National Headquarters. The members of his staff shall be appointed by him with the advice and approval of the National Executive Committee. The term of office for all members of this department shall be from one National Conference to the next succeeding Conference unless otherwise provided.

ARTICLE XI AUDIT COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Audit Committee shall consist of three members to be appointed by the Executive Committee within one month following the National Conference. Such members

are preferably chosen in one centre, but they shall not be members of the National Council nor executive officers of the National Executive Committee. The appointment of the members of the Committee is upon approval of the National Council.

Section 2. The Audit Committee shall have at all times access to all financial books and accounts of the Organization; it shall audit the books of the National Executive Committee once every three calendar months and it shall prepare an annual audited financial report for presentation to the National Conference.

Section 3. The Audit Committee shall be accountable to the National Executive Committee and to the National Council.

ARTICLE XII BUDGET AND FINANCE

Section 1. The financial resources of the National J.C.C.A. shall consist of the sums paid by member provincial chapters as assessed by the National Council in Conference and of income from other sources such as donations, special fund drive, etc.

Section 2. The annual National budget for the term following a National Conference shall be submitted by the National Executive Committee and approved by the National Council in Conference.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee shall, subject to approval by the National Council, be empowered to adjust the budget according to needs, so long as it does not exceed the National budget. It may also be empowered to institute special fund drives to meet contingent issues with the approval of the National Council.

Section 4. The fiscal year for the National Budget shall be for the term starting September 1st, ending August 31st.

Section 5. All member provincial chapters shall be required to subscribe to allotted assessment of the National Budget within the first six month period of the fiscal year. Any member provincial chapter failing without just cause to meet this requirement shall be fined 10% per annum of the sum in arrears in excess of its assessment. Any member chapter so fined shall have the right to appeal to the National Council in Conference.

Section 6. The National Budget and appropriations for projects for the fiscal year following the annual Conference are determined by the National Council in Conference.

Section 7. Any special contributions or donations shall be held in trust to meet special contingencies at the wish of the donors. The utilization of such trust funds shall be subject to the ratification by the National Council.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by the petition of any provincial chapter and/or by the recommendation of the National Executive Committee submitted in writing to the National Executive Secretary provided that two months' previous notice shall have

been given in writing to the said Secretary and shall be considered and ratified at the next ensuing Conference. The National Executive Secretary shall notify all other provincial chapters of such proposed amendment at least one month preceding such next ensuing Conference.

Section 2. The majority vote of three-fourths of the members of the National Council in Conference shall be required for passage of any amendments to the Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Section 1. The National Conference of this Organization shall be convened at the behest of the National Council which shall designate the site therefor at a previous National Conference.

Section 2. Such a Conference shall be convened at least once every two years unless otherwise decided by the National Council.

Section 3. The National Conference shall reach decisions by a majority vote.

ARTICLE XV RESIGNATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Any officers of the National J.C.C.A. desirous of resigning shall notify the National President in writing at least two months previous to the time when relief is desired, provided that such notification must contain justifiable cause for so resigning. The National President shall confer with the National Council either telegraphically or telephonically, and render a decision. A two-thirds majority of the National Council is requisite for acceptance of resignation or replacements.

Section 2. The officers of this Organization shall be subject to suspension or impeachment for misdemeanours, misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, provided that the National Executive Committee, after careful investigation, presents the case in point to a special session of the National Council (personal attendance or telegraphically) which shall, by a three-fourths majority vote of the said National Council, adjudge the officer on trial as being guilty of the charge or charges preferred against him. The hearing of a charge or charges may be postponed to a National Conference unless expediency dictates otherwise, at which time the officer charged may defend himself personally or by counsel.

Section 3. Any officer suspended or impeached prior to the calling of a National Conference, shall have a categorical right of appeal to the said National Conference, at which a hearing shall be conducted in open session or in camera as the National Council may decide. The officer appealing shall be cross-examined by a special prosecutor appointed by the National Council in Conference: the appellant shall also have the right to cross-examine witnesses for the prosecution.