

# Legacies of Loss Interview

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## Loss of Education & Faith in Canada, Part 2

**Yoshiaki (b. 1928) describes his experience grappling with the internment as a teenager and how he still tries not to think about it. “It’s too big,” he says.**

**Excerpt from Landscapes of Injustice oral history interview with Yoshiaki Nagao.**

EGLANTINA

You said you were allowed to carry one suitcase. [SHARKY: Yeah.] What did you put in it?

YOSHIAKI NAGAO

Well, I guess, I don’t recall that, because I was 14 years old and, you know, 14 years old you’re a kid. In those days, they – mind you, for a child, I think I thought quite a bit more than most kids. And quite often they’re referred to as a mature kid. I don’t hear that now, but ... How can a 14-year-old be matured? It’s a kid! I resented the fact we’re being kicked out and I didn’t even know how to protest. And what adult would listen to me? Didn’t work that way. I had to find myself and it was difficult. Like I said, I made a bad decision in ’42 about the schooling when I said, “Why should I go to school when they taught me all lies?” How else am I going to think? Because of immaturity. So, you might say I was thrown to the dogs [Pauses]. But I don’t know, I try not to think of it, it’s too big.

Yeah and I’ve discovered to you as I mentioned about these politicians while they’re trying to get to that position they sweet-talk, but when they’re home, their thoughts are ... [Chuckles] and then there’s no real value to what they talk about, but once again, can’t do anything about it.