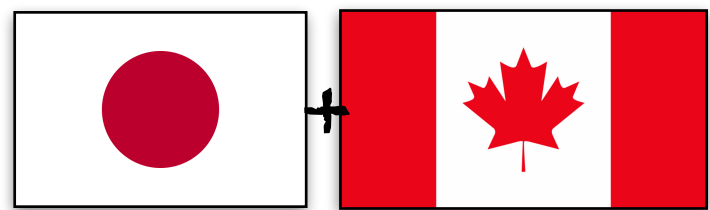


The BC Japanese

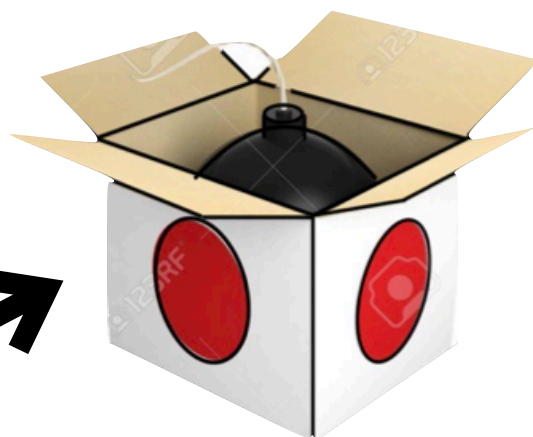
Internment

1942-1949





Introduction



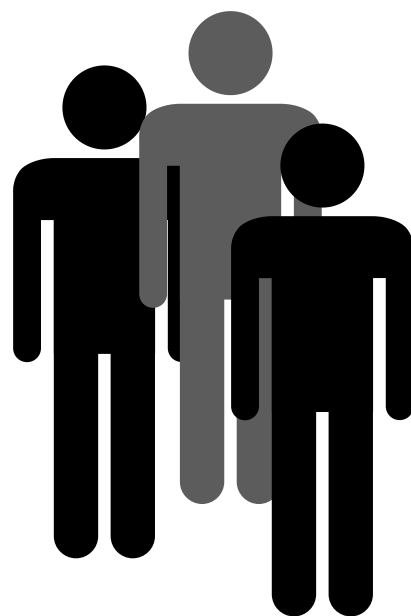
Underlying events



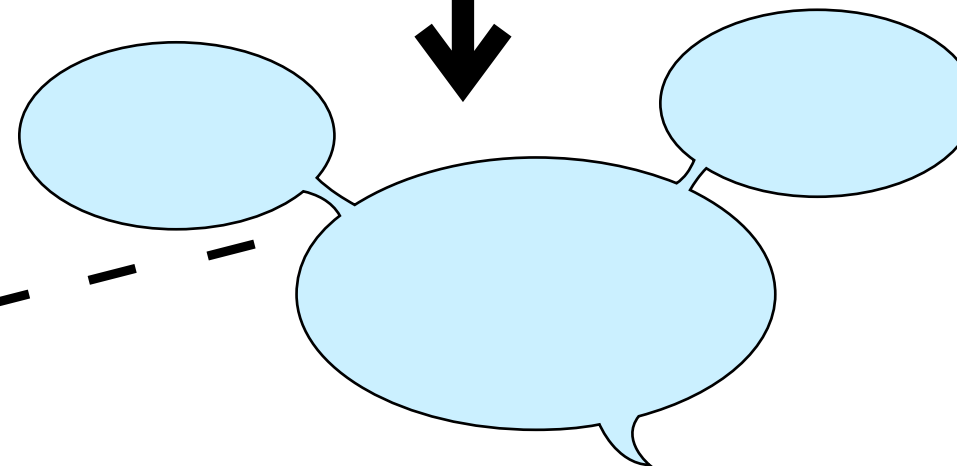
**The beginning of
the Internment**



The end of the internment



The Japanese Internment



Calling for an Internment



JAPANESE KEEP MOVING
- THIS IS A WHITE MAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD.

Introduction

The Japanese internment was one of BC's many mistakes that not many people know of. Japanese Canadians who resided along the Pacific coast of BC in the early-mid 1900s, weren't very welcome in the first place. It was a pretty closed minded era towards people of colour and how they should be treated. All Japanese Canadians came to Canada in search of a new life, and most decided to make their life in BC because the coast life was just like the environment in Japan. Many of the events and actions that soon occurred could have easily been avoided, but instead we continue to live with the ghost of the dreadful internment.

Back to first slide

Underlying events

The Japanese internment was officially on pace to happen after the pearl harbour bombing 1941. During WWII, Japan was fighting alongside Germany as tensions tightened between Japan and the USA.

Eventually Japan flew across the pacific to Hawaii and bombed Pearl Harbour. This attack was heard worldwide and the USA went to war with Japan. Unfortunately, Canadian soldiers were placed in Pearl Harbour for support before the attack happened. Canada reluctantly declared war on Japan alongside the USA and started the up and coming nightmare for Japanese Canadians.



- Left: USS West Virginia sunk by torpedos and bombs during attack

- Right: William Lyon Mackenzie King

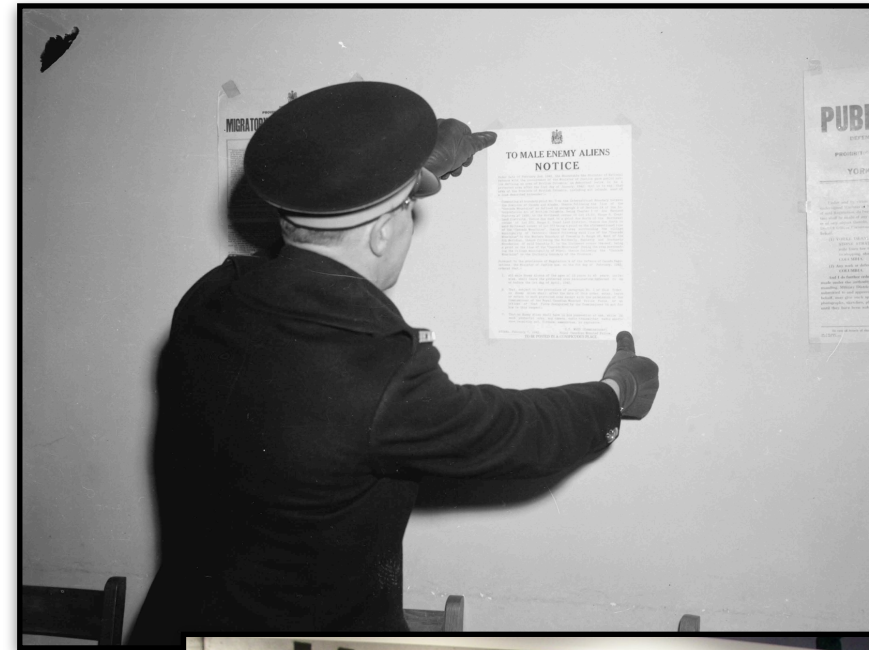


- Newspaper image of Pearl Harbour Bombing

Back to first slide

Beginning of the Internment

Just after Canada declared war on Japan, the Canadian government was giving Japanese Canadians the name “enemy alien”. They weren’t to be trusted and were treated worse than they already were. Japanese Canadians faced the most public hate they had ever experienced. For example certain parts of towns would set up signs saying “Japs keep moving” or “Japs not welcome inside” To make matters worse, the BC government then impounded a total of 12,000 Japanese fishing boats that were owned by Japanese Canadian fishermen.



- Government official putting up poster addressing “Enemy Aliens”



- White business owner pointing to Sign directed to Japanese



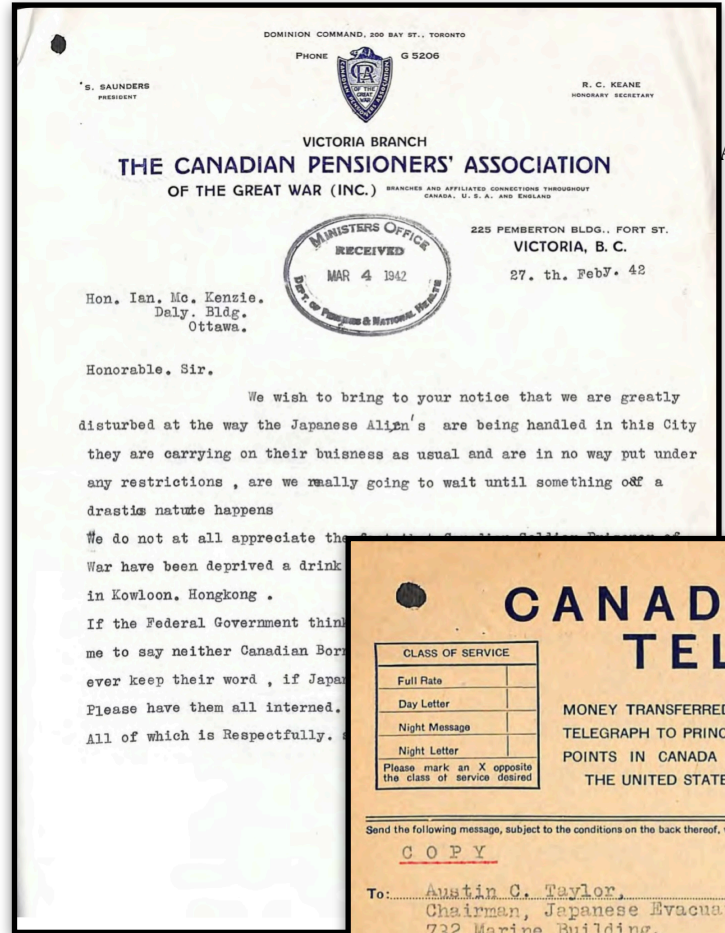
6. 1 - IMPOUNDED VESSELS AT ANNIEVILLE DYKE, FRASER RIVER PRIOR TO RECONDITIONING FOR SALE.

(Above)
BC government impounding 12,000 Japanese fishing boats

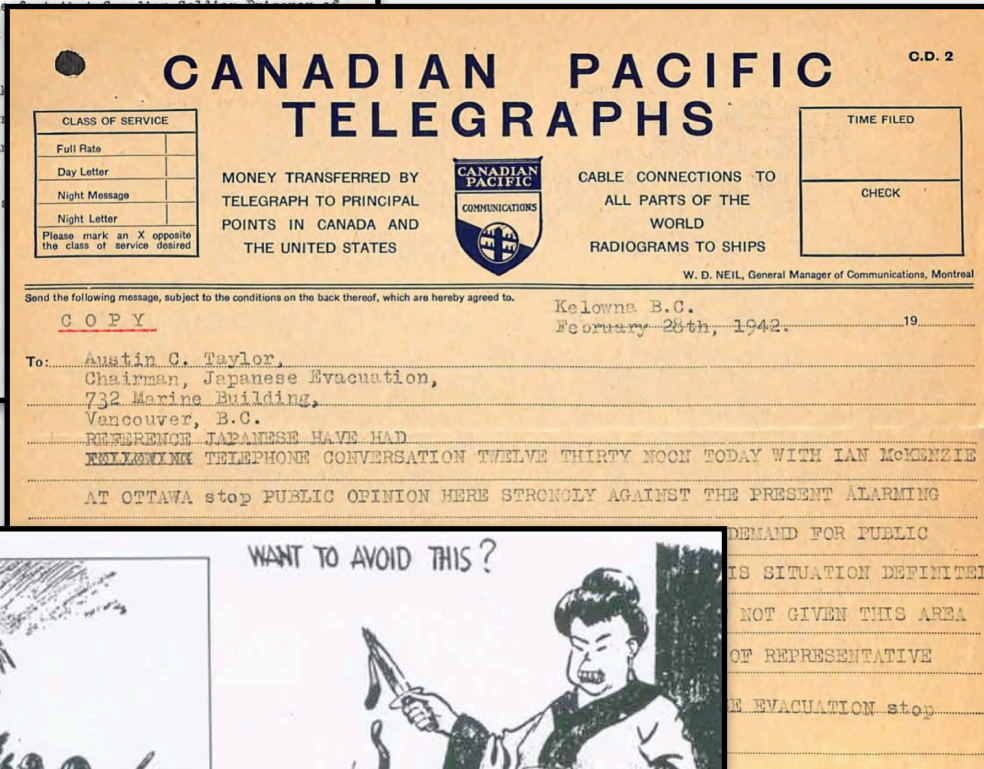
[Back to first slide](#)

Calling for an Internment

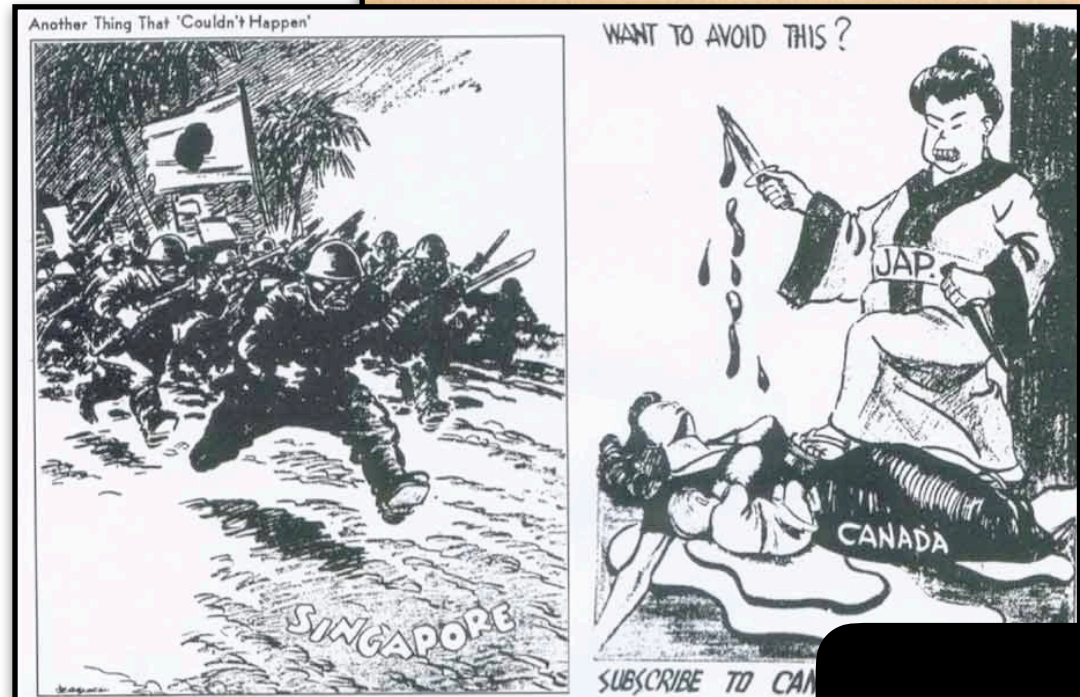
As tensions between Canadians and Japanese-Canadians rose, calls from BC government representatives requested that these Japanese be interned, evacuated, or deported out of the country. Letters and telegraphs from members of government were sent to Ottawa while the public made their own statements with short cartoons, comics, and newspaper articles. The Canadian government implicitly spread information and news about the Japanese-Canadians because from all the sources, documents, and illustrations, we only see the white man's point of view.



- Letter from the Canadian Pensioners Association requesting the internment of all Japanese



(Below) Telegraph that talks about the necessity to evacuate all Japanese out of Canada



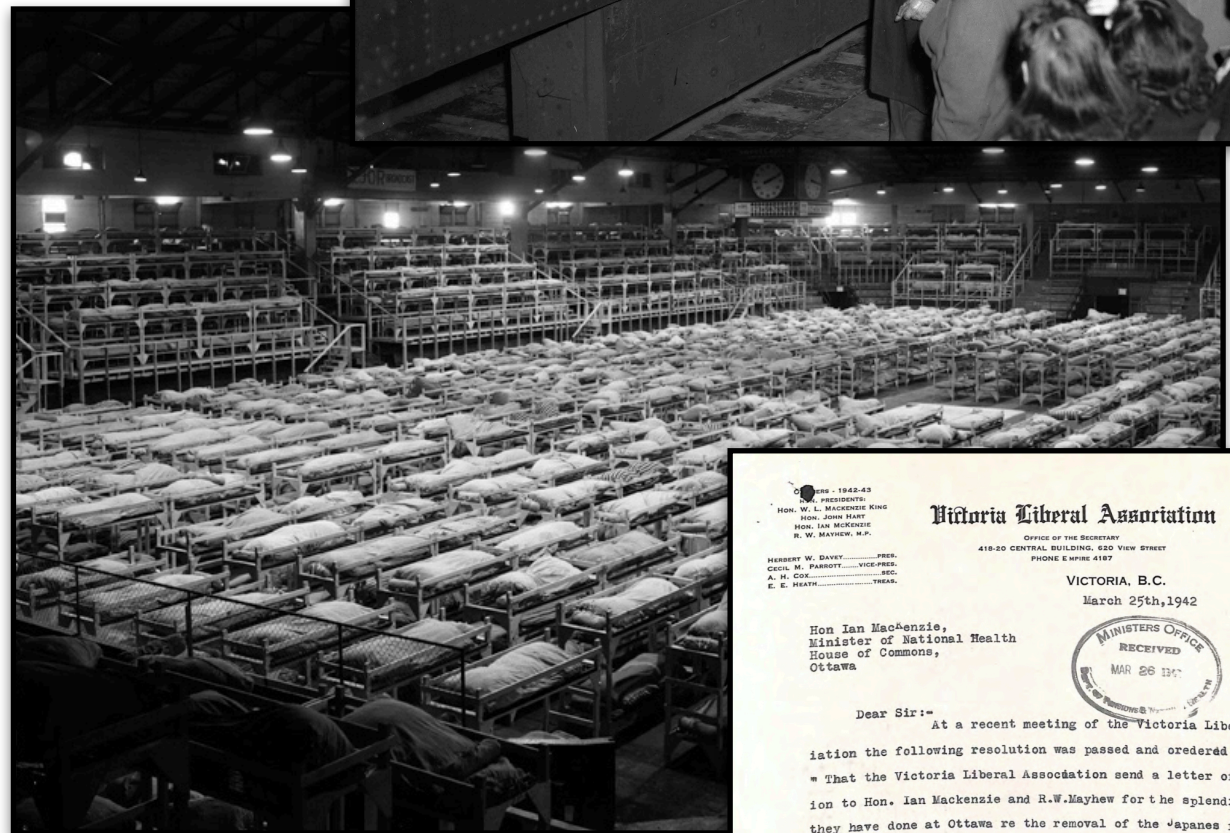
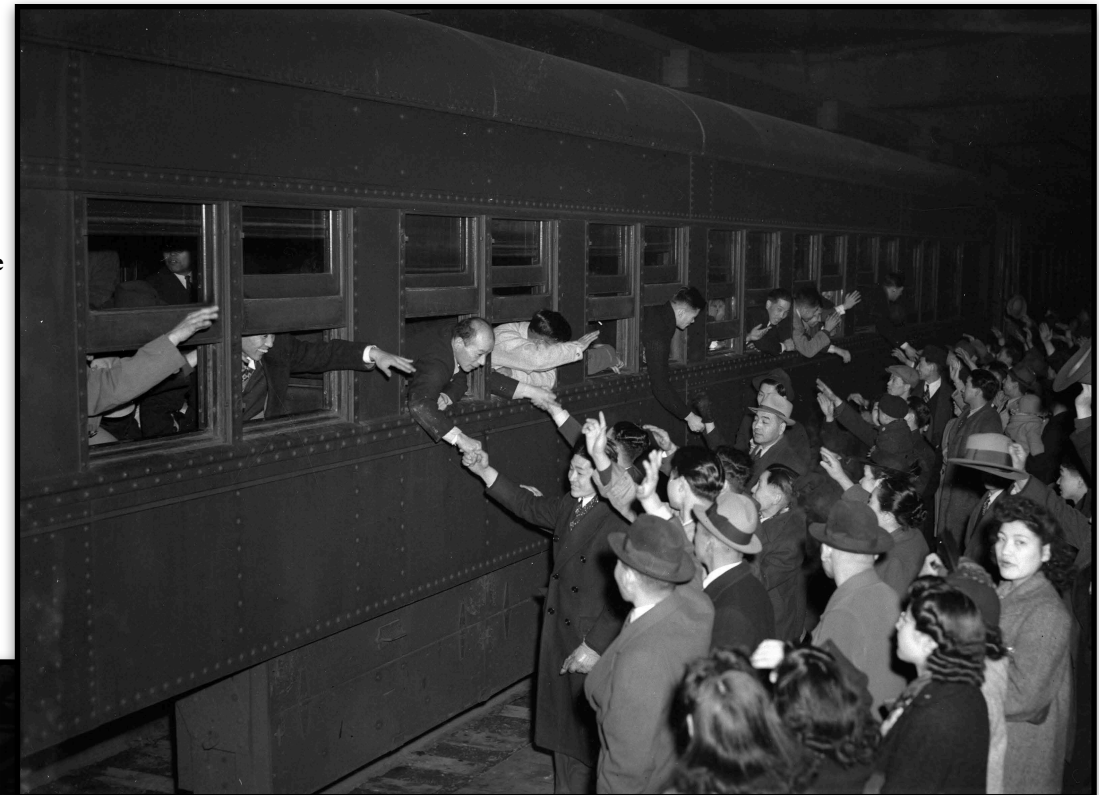
- Comic shown in Canadian newspaper showing the consequences if Japanese are dealt with

Back to first slide

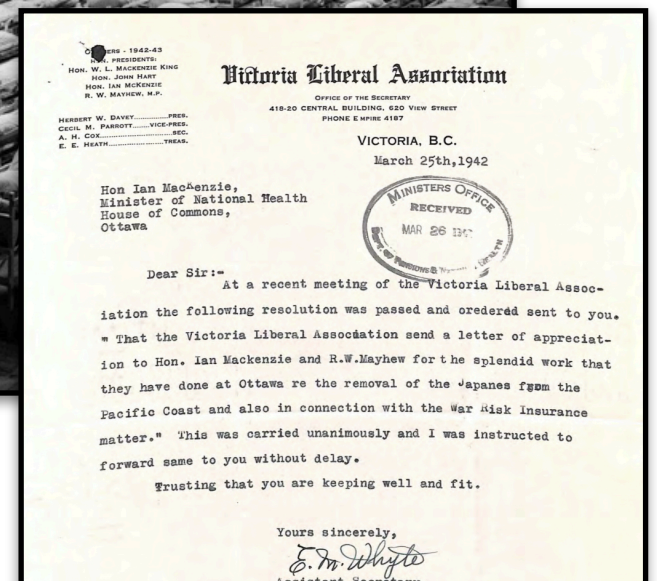
The Japanese Internment

Eventually the Canadian government heard from enough people and decided to intern all Japanese-Canadians in early 1942. All the Japanese in BC were brought to Hastings Park (right next to the PNE) by train, boat, or by foot to be placed in 2 large barns. Anything that was owned by Japanese-Canadians and was larger than a car was impounded and then auctioned off to white Canadians, never to be given back. The Japanese were separated from their families, women and children would go in one barn, and men and older boys would go in the other. The living conditions were very poor. All they were provided with were beds, small bathrooms, and low quality food. People put up their own blankets to create their own privacy from one another. Their stay here didn't last. The Japanese were once again separated as they were spread east of the Rocky Mountains in Internment camps. Many became farmers during this time and became good partners with other lower class groups like the Doukhobors.

Japanese families saying goodbye to one another before being sent to internment camps



(Above)
Inside look at a Hastings Park Internment barns

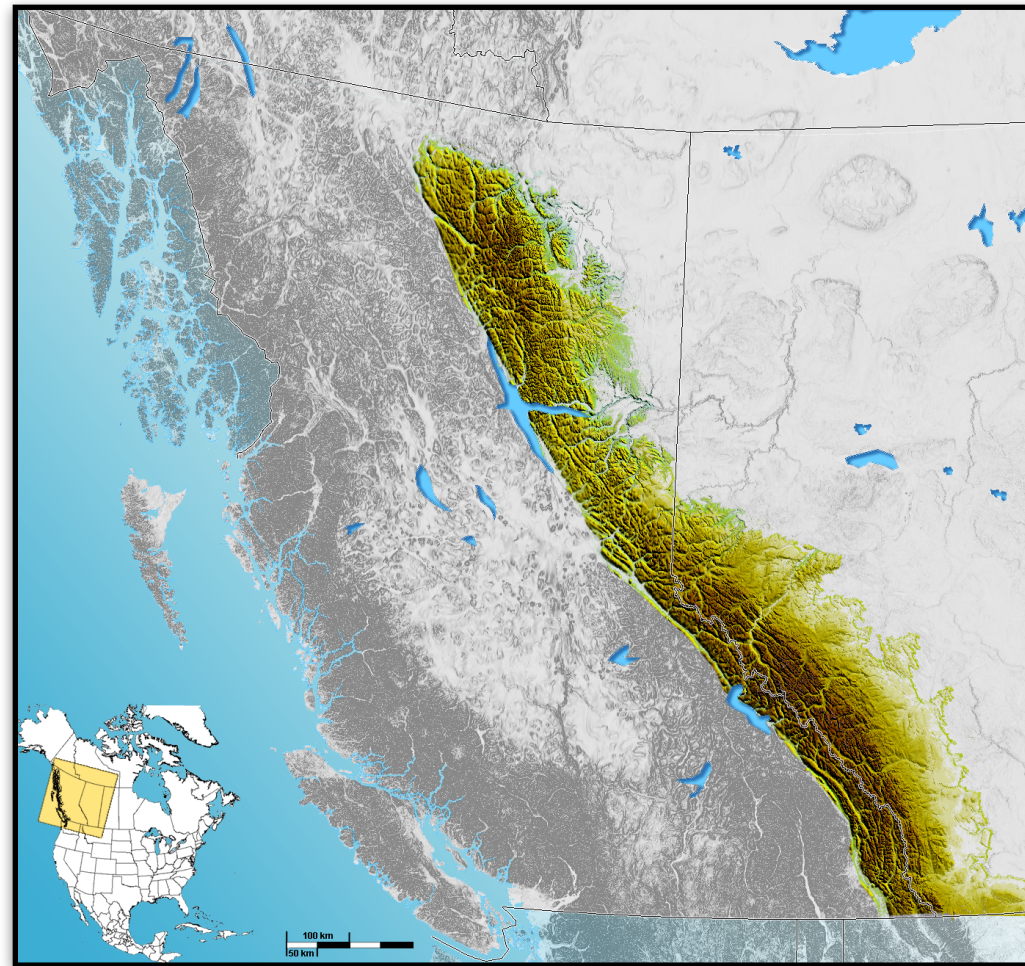


Letter congratulating Ian Mackenzie on the completion of the Japanese Internment

Back to first slide

The end of the internment

The Japanese-Canadians went through about 7 years of being interned. They were finally released from captivity in 1949, 4 years after the war had ended, but weren't completely free. None were welcome back in BC and were originally set to be deported back to Japan. This law was soon taken away so Japanese-Canadians were allowed to live east of the Rocky Mountains. Many used the skills they learned during the internment to become farmers in the prairies while others went even further east and settled in different parts of Ontario. It also wasn't until 1960 that the Japanese-Canadians and indigenous peoples were allowed to vote alongside the white Canadians.



- Map of where the Canadian Rocky Mountains are



- Picture of Japanese-Canadian woman voting for the first time

Back to first slide

The End



JAPANESE RAILWAYS
TOKAI-PACIFIC FREIGHTER
TADAO ISUMI
KOD. NO. 0017
MARIYAMA-KAN
JAPAN

和歌山線東急車
下見町駅