

1

Will We Wait Too Long?
 Editor, The Sun: Sir,—This is our country. If we want to hold it, we must take every step to safeguard it. This is a critical time. No Japanese should be allowed in the coastal area. They know our coast better than the average British Columbian. Rightly, or wrongly, we have never treated them as equals. They know it and resent it. There is little doubt that they think a lot of this country, but that does not make them loyal to our government. Will we do the sensible thing at this time, or will we wake up to find the little brown man prodding us with his bayonet and giving us orders we are not in a position to refuse.
 GEO. J. FELTON.

2

NOTICE
TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN
 Having reference to the Prohibited Area of British Columbia as described in an Extra of the Canada Gazette, No. 174 dated Ottawa, Monday, February 2, 1942:

... (text continues) ...
 LUSH S. ST. LAWSON,
 Minister of Justice

NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders No. 21, No. 22, No. 23 and No. 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:

LILU ISLAND (including Steveston)
 SEA ISLAND
 EBURNE
 MARPOLE
 DISTRICT OF QUEENSBOROUGH
 SAFFERTON
 CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER
 BUTTLAM
 PORT MOODY
 ISCO
 PORT COQUITLAM
 FRASER MILLS
 CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
 CORPORATION OF VANCOUVER
 THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

NO FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of Japanese race found within any of the said Prohibited Areas without a written permit from the Provincial Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalty under Order in Council P.C. 1655.

AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
 Director
 BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION



A hard time in Alberta

My father came here from a meeting and he looked very upset and sad. He said we were going to Lethbridge to work in the sugar beet fields. He said that my older brothers would be sent to road camps and we would stay together no matter what it was like. He went by train, one coach on the train to Calgary. We took lunch, everything was upset. They, we didn't know what was going to happen. I was about fourteen when the freight car broke out and I was so proud I don't think I knew why we were being taken from our homes. Mr. Johnson was also in it. We had no complaints about him. He didn't say a word. The only thing is that when we got there I remember my mother, a railway worker, but a house. There were also of us and there was just one area which could be the bedroom, and the rest was open area where they had the stove and table and cupboard. But you know, from a word above to a coal stove like in the houses we had many failures and we had a hard time cooking. I was based on me and my sisters because we weren't allowed to go to school in order to go to high school in Alberta and my parents could not afford to send girls to school, not at the rate of money they were making. It took everything they made just to buy food. We were paid by the end of the season, in the beet, by tonnage. If the crops were poor you got nice little. The tonnage was fair because the meeting was all done by the co-op. Our co-op was Pitkin's Beet. Our father had very little to support us. We had to buy food and clothing. It was so cold. The government gave us no help.

Japanese Internment

5

... (text continues) ...
 ... (text continues) ...
 ... (text continues) ...



7

THE NATIONAL JAPANESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CANADIAN
 100 KING ST. W. TORONTO, ONT.
 January 10, 1946

On Behalf of Justice and Fair Play to all Japanese Canadians

Dear Fellow Worker:

... (text continues) ...



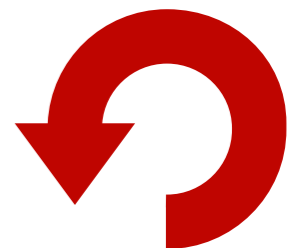
Will We Wait Too Long?

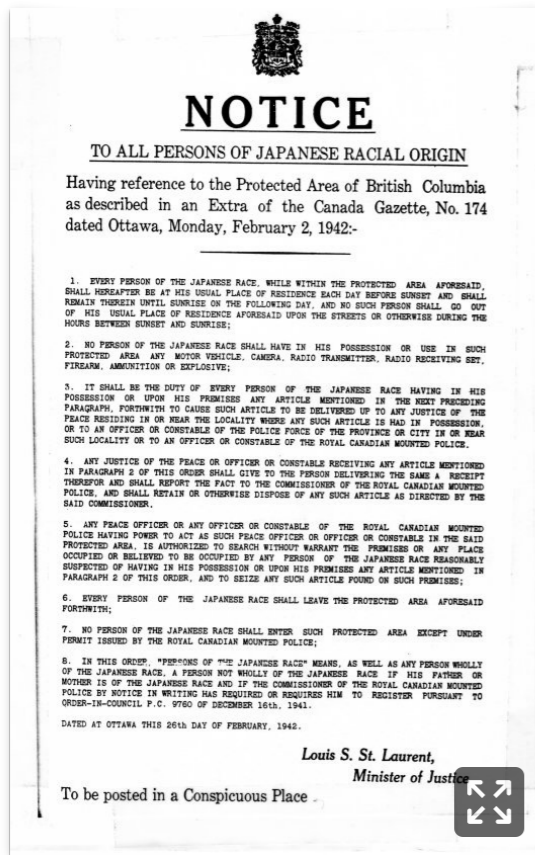
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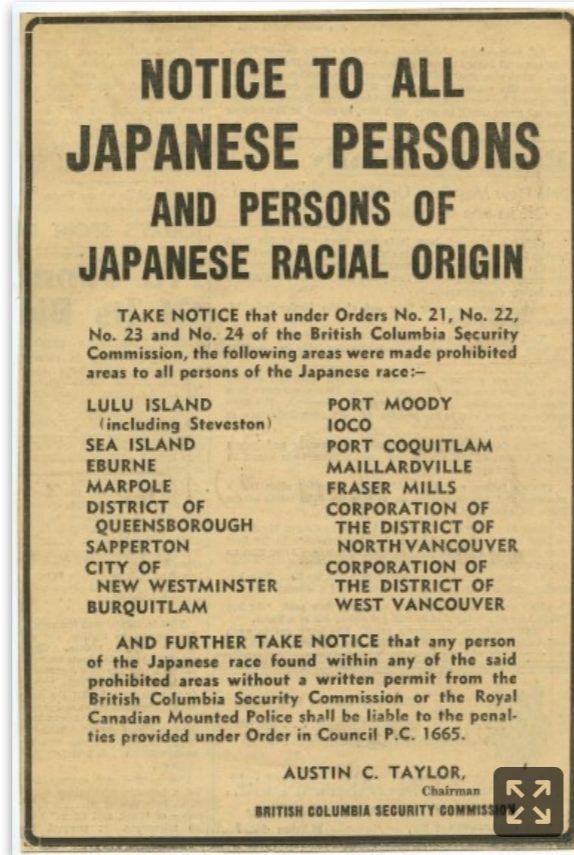
- Newspaper Article By the Vancouver Sun
- Written By Geo. J. Felton
- Published on January 2nd 1942

In 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl harbour, quickly leading to Canada declaring war on Japan. This promptly led to a very high amount of anti-Japanese Canadian propaganda being spread around Canadian, in particular British Columbia. This newspaper article written a year after the Pearl harbour bombing showcases those anti-Asian ideals. It was made by the Vancouver sun, a primarily white newspaper company and explicitly shows the viewpoint of most white Canadians at the time. In it, it says, "There is little doubt that they think a lot of this country, but that does not make them loyal to our government". This shows that many feared that Japanese Canadians would not be loyal to the Canadian government and that they would eventually take over Canada. While this might sound crazy today, at the time racial discrimination had been commonplace with discrimination against Chinese Canadians going on for many years prior. This strong public opinion about the Japanese Canadians is what led to a lot of the injustices that came in the following years.



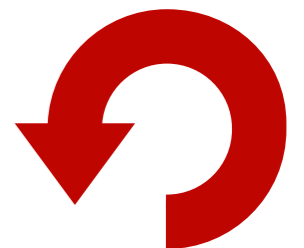


- Notice dated to February 2nd 1942
- Created by the Government of Canada



- Notice dated to around 1942
- Created by the British Columbia Security Commission

The fear surrounding Japanese Canadians is why the Canadian government decided to create new restrictions. These restrictions like the two on the left were made specifically to suppress the Japanese Canadian population. This included banning the possession of firearms, motor vehicles, radio transmitters, and cameras as well as prohibiting entry to entire areas and letting RCMP officers search any premises under Japanese Canadian ownership without permission. These restrictions imply the distrust the government has with Japanese Canadians. Banning Firearms and transmitters shows that the government is trying to prevent any retaliation by taking away any method of fighting back. Along with that, prohibiting entire areas from entry is a more explicit way of limiting opportunities in British Columbia to force the Japanese Canadians elsewhere. Once again this type of discrimination was not unheard of at the time, as things like the Chinese exclusion act have been going on for 20-plus years.





NOTICE

TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

Having reference to the Protected Area of British Columbia as described in an Extra of the Canada Gazette, No. 174 dated Ottawa, Monday, February 2, 1942:-

1. EVERY PERSON OF THE JAPANESE RACE, WHILE WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA AFORESAID, SHALL HEREAFTER BE AT HIS USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE EACH DAY BEFORE SUNSET AND SHALL REMAIN THEREIN UNTIL SUNRISE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND NO SUCH PERSON SHALL GO OUT OF HIS USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE AFORESAID UPON THE STREETS OR OTHERWISE DURING THE HOURS BETWEEN SUNSET AND SUNRISE;
2. NO PERSON OF THE JAPANESE RACE SHALL HAVE IN HIS POSSESSION OR USE IN SUCH PROTECTED AREA ANY MOTOR VEHICLE, CAMERA, RADIO TRANSMITTER, RADIO RECEIVING SET, FIREARM, AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVE;
3. IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EVERY PERSON OF THE JAPANESE RACE HAVING IN HIS POSSESSION OR UPON HIS PREMISES ANY ARTICLE MENTIONED IN THE NEXT PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, FORTHWITH TO CAUSE SUCH ARTICLE TO BE DELIVERED UP TO ANY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE RESIDING IN OR NEAR THE LOCALITY WHERE ANY SUCH ARTICLE IS HAD IN POSSESSION, OR TO AN OFFICER OR CONSTABLE OF THE POLICE FORCE OF THE PROVINCE OR CITY IN OR NEAR SUCH LOCALITY OR TO AN OFFICER OR CONSTABLE OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.
4. ANY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE OR OFFICER OR CONSTABLE RECEIVING ANY ARTICLE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS ORDER SHALL GIVE TO THE PERSON DELIVERING THE SAME A RECEIPT THEREFOR AND SHALL REPORT THE FACT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, AND SHALL RETAIN OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF ANY SUCH ARTICLE AS DIRECTED BY THE SAID COMMISSIONER.
5. ANY PEACE OFFICER OR ANY OFFICER OR CONSTABLE OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HAVING POWER TO ACT AS SUCH PEACE OFFICER OR OFFICER OR CONSTABLE IN THE SAID PROTECTED AREA, IS AUTHORIZED TO SEARCH WITHOUT WARRANT THE PREMISES OR ANY PLACE OCCUPIED OR BELIEVED TO BE OCCUPIED BY ANY PERSON OF THE JAPANESE RACE REASONABLY SUSPECTED OF HAVING IN HIS POSSESSION OR UPON HIS PREMISES ANY ARTICLE MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS ORDER, AND TO SEIZE ANY SUCH ARTICLE FOUND ON SUCH PREMISES;
6. EVERY PERSON OF THE JAPANESE RACE SHALL LEAVE THE PROTECTED AREA AFORESAID FORTHWITH;
7. NO PERSON OF THE JAPANESE RACE SHALL ENTER SUCH PROTECTED AREA EXCEPT UNDER PERMIT ISSUED BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE;
8. IN THIS ORDER, "PERSONS OF THE JAPANESE RACE" MEANS, AS WELL AS ANY PERSON WHOLLY OF THE JAPANESE RACE, A PERSON NOT WHOLLY OF THE JAPANESE RACE IF HIS FATHER OR MOTHER IS OF THE JAPANESE RACE AND IF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE BY NOTICE IN WRITING HAS REQUIRED OR REQUIRES HIM TO REGISTER PURSUANT TO ORDER-IN-COUNCIL P.C. 9760 OF DECEMBER 16th, 1941.

DATED AT OTTAWA THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1942.

Louis S. St. Laurent,
Minister of Justice

To be posted in a Conspicuous Place

NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders No. 21, No. 22, No. 23 and No. 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:-

LULU ISLAND (including Steveston)	PORT MOODY
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CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER	CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
BURQUITLAM	

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1665.

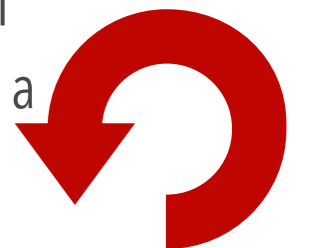
AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
Chairman
BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION





- Photo of the Men's Dormitory inside the Livestock Barn of the P.N.E
- Taken by Leonard Frank, a photographer for the Vancouver Daily Province and the Vancouver Sun Newspapers
- Dated to May 13th 1942

A month after the previous restrictions were put in place, Japanese Canadians were rounded up and put in and relocated to the P.N.E, to wait for their deportation to internment camps. This photograph of the Japanese Canadians Dormitory showcases the conditions they went through during this first internment. Japanese Canadians were packed into the livestock building with no regard or personal space. This implicitly implies how much the Canadian government cared about the livelihood of Japanese Canadians. They could not care for adequate housing or conditions for the thousands of Japanese Canadians they forced to leave. These types of living conditions, unfortunately, became a theme in the following internment camps.







- Photo of Japanese Canadian men saying goodbye to their families
- Dated to 1942

A hard time in Alberta

My father came back from a meeting and he looked very upset and sad and he said we were going to Lethbridge to work in the sugar beet fields. Poor but together, he said. That's the way it would be. Going to Lethbridge meant that my older brothers wouldn't be sent to road camps and we could keep together no matter what it was like.

We went by train. One coach on the train to Calgary. We took lunch, food, and slept sitting up. It was very crowded with all the families and everybody was upset. They, we didn't know what was going to happen. I was about fourteen when the Pacific war broke out and I was so young I don't think I knew why we were being taken from our homes

Mr. Johnson was nice to us. We had no complaints about him. He did his utmost. The only thing is that when we got there I remember my mother's face because she was so disappointed because we had a caboose to live in, a railway caboose, not a house. There were nine of us and there was just one area which could be the bedroom, and the rest was open area where they had the stove and table and cupboard. But you know, from a wood stove to a coal stove like in the caboose we had many failures and we had a hard time cooking

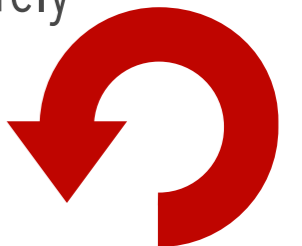
It was hard on me and my sisters because we weren't allowed to go to high school either. No. Your parents had to have seven dollars a month for each child in order to go to high school in Alberta and my parents could not afford to send girls to school, not at the rate of money they were making. It took everything they made just to buy food.

We were paid by the end of the season, in the beets. Paid by tonnage. If the crops were poor you got paid less. The tonnage was fair because counting was all done by the co-op. Our co-op was Picture Butte.

Our father had very little to support us. We had to buy food and clothing. It was so cold. The government gave us no help.

- Excerpt from an interview with a Japanese Canadian farmer
- Interview took place around 1977

Soon after, Japanese Canadians were either moved to internment camps in central B.C or red beet farms in Alberta and Manitoba. Families were separated as men were forced into hard labour on roads and railways, and women and children were left in abandoned ghost towns. The separation of families as well as the conditions in these towns and farms, implicitly show the government's perspective on Japanese Internment. Like the other sources, these photos and letters showcase the fact that internment was an easy and cost-effective way of prevention against the Japanese Canadian population, with no regard for the effect it would have on the people. However, these documents are biased toward Japanese Canadians. From the Japanese perspective, these measures were completely unjustified, as they had yet to do anything wrong except for being Japanese. The only thing internment did for Japanese Canadians was separate families, took all their possessions, and severely stunted their growth in Canada.





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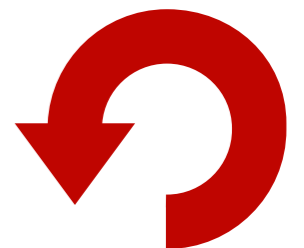
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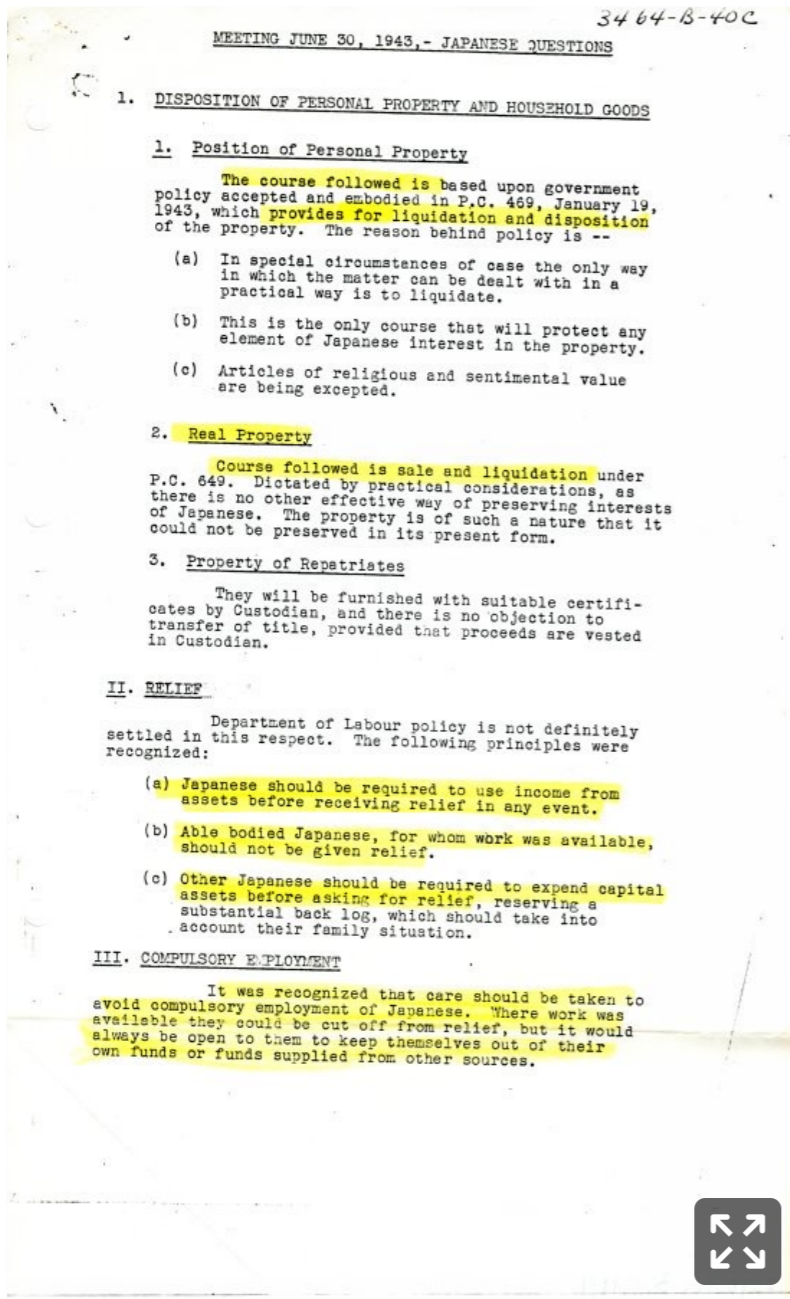
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- A Government Meeting Paper
- Dated to June 30, 1943

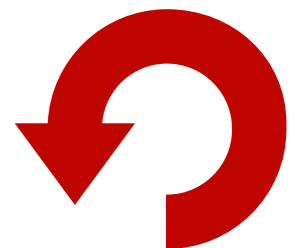
As Japanese Canadians were forced to leave, they left behind lots of items and property. Most of these items would be seized by the government and then sold off for cheap. This money would go on to pay for their own internment. The document on the left explicitly talks about how the only option for Japanese property is "sale and liquidation" because "there is no other effective way of preserving interests of Japanese." From the government's perspective this is a logical conclusion. The government suddenly has a surplus of property they can't maintain effectively, so they decide their only option is to sell it and use the money to make internment as cheap as possible. However from the Japanese Canadian perspective, it shows the predicament that Japanese Canadians were put in after the internment. When internment ended, most Japanese Canadians had nothing left they could go back to, and were forced to rebuild their lives from nothing once again.



- A Photo of Seized Japanese Cars
- Dated to 1942
- Created for the Vancouver Province Newspaper



- A Photo of Seized Japanese Fishing Boats
- Dated to 1942



3464-B-40C

MEETING JUNE 30, 1943, - JAPANESE QUESTIONS

1. DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1. Position of Personal Property

The course followed is based upon government policy accepted and embodied in P.C. 469, January 19, 1943, which provides for liquidation and disposition of the property. The reason behind policy is --

- (a) In special circumstances of case the only way in which the matter can be dealt with in a practical way is to liquidate.
- (b) This is the only course that will protect any element of Japanese interest in the property.
- (c) Articles of religious and sentimental value are being excepted.

2. Real Property

Course followed is sale and liquidation under P.C. 649. Dictated by practical considerations, as there is no other effective way of preserving interests of Japanese. The property is of such a nature that it could not be preserved in its present form.

3. Property of Repatriates

They will be furnished with suitable certificates by Custodian, and there is no objection to transfer of title, provided that proceeds are vested in Custodian.

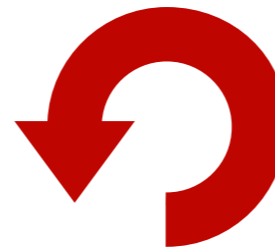
II. RELIEF

Department of Labour policy is not definitely settled in this respect. The following principles were recognized:

- (a) Japanese should be required to use income from assets before receiving relief in any event.
- (b) Able bodied Japanese, for whom work was available, should not be given relief.
- (c) Other Japanese should be required to expend capital assets before asking for relief, reserving a substantial back log, which should take into account their family situation.

III. COMPULSORY EMPLOYMENT

It was recognized that care should be taken to avoid compulsory employment of Japanese. Where work was available they could be cut off from relief, but it would always be open to them to keep themselves out of their own funds or funds supplied from other sources.



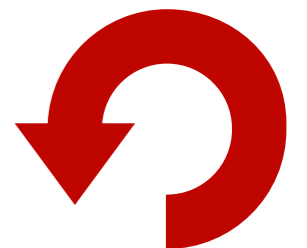


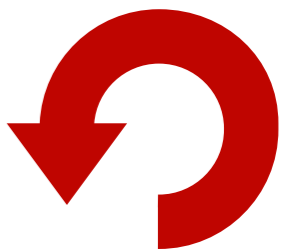
- Photo of Toru Iwaasa from the Royal Canadian Engineers Canadian Army
- Taken around 1943

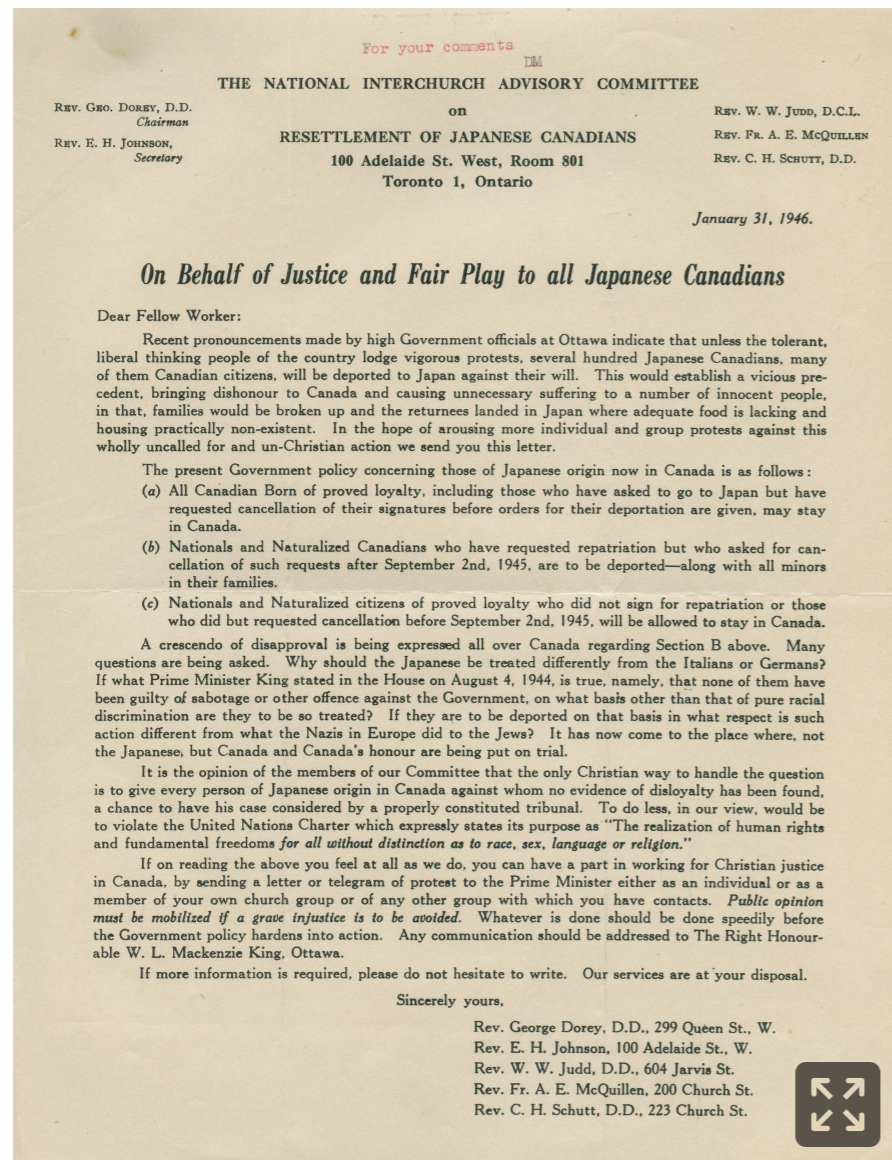
When the war broke out, Japanese Canadians were banned from enlisting in the army, but this didn't stop some from trying. As the war was ending in 1945, the Canadian government decided to repeal the ban, and many Japanese Canadians decided to sign up, like those you see here. This implies that Japanese Canadians could be loyal to this country, even after they had been racially discriminated against. This shows as although many Japanese Canadians were reasonably bitter from internment and treatment from the Canadian government, not one was ever charged with disloyalty.



- Titled "The Day After... Apr 1945"
- Group photo of 2nd generation Japanese Canadians in Canadian Army uniforms
- Taken in 1945

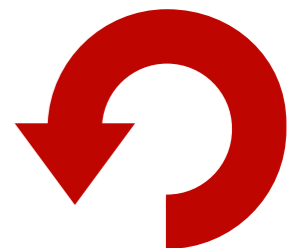






- A notice by the National Interchurch advisory committee
- Dated to January 1946

When the war was finally over, Japanese Canadians were given the choice to either relocate to the east of the Rockies or be deported back to Japan. More than 4,000 Japanese Canadians were eventually sent to Japan. Many were Nisei, second-generation Japanese Canadians who had never been to Japan in their life. Many more could have been deported if it wasn't for public resistance like this letter. In the letter it says "If they (the Japanese Canadians) are to be deported on that basis (of racial discrimination) in what respect is such action different from what the Nazis in Europe did to the Jews?" This explicitly shows the change of thinking that happened after the war. In 5 years it's gone from asking the government to deport Japanese Canadians to internment camps, to protecting the Japanese from being deported to Japan. From the perspective of a white Canadian, this thinking makes sense as the fear surrounding Japanese Canadians slowly dissipates as the war goes on.



For your comments

DM

THE NATIONAL INTERCHURCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REV. GEO. DOREY, D.D.
Chairman

REV. E. H. JOHNSON,
Secretary

on

RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

100 Adelaide St. West, Room 801

Toronto 1, Ontario

REV. W. W. JUDD, D.C.L.

REV. FR. A. E. MCQUILLEN

REV. C. H. SCHUTT, D.D.

January 31, 1946.

On Behalf of Justice and Fair Play to all Japanese Canadians

Dear Fellow Worker:

Recent pronouncements made by high Government officials at Ottawa indicate that unless the tolerant, liberal thinking people of the country lodge vigorous protests, several hundred Japanese Canadians, many of them Canadian citizens, will be deported to Japan against their will. This would establish a vicious precedent, bringing dishonour to Canada and causing unnecessary suffering to a number of innocent people, in that, families would be broken up and the returnees landed in Japan where adequate food is lacking and housing practically non-existent. In the hope of arousing more individual and group protests against this wholly uncalled for and un-Christian action we send you this letter.

The present Government policy concerning those of Japanese origin now in Canada is as follows:

- (a) All Canadian Born of proved loyalty, including those who have asked to go to Japan but have requested cancellation of their signatures before orders for their deportation are given, may stay in Canada.
- (b) Nationals and Naturalized Canadians who have requested repatriation but who asked for cancellation of such requests after September 2nd, 1945, are to be deported—along with all minors in their families.
- (c) Nationals and Naturalized citizens of proved loyalty who did not sign for repatriation or those who did but requested cancellation before September 2nd, 1945, will be allowed to stay in Canada.

A crescendo of disapproval is being expressed all over Canada regarding Section B above. Many questions are being asked. Why should the Japanese be treated differently from the Italians or Germans? If what Prime Minister King stated in the House on August 4, 1944, is true, namely, that none of them have been guilty of sabotage or other offence against the Government, on what basis other than that of pure racial discrimination are they to be so treated? If they are to be deported on that basis in what respect is such action different from what the Nazis in Europe did to the Jews? It has now come to the place where, not the Japanese, but Canada and Canada's honour are being put on trial.

It is the opinion of the members of our Committee that the only Christian way to handle the question is to give every person of Japanese origin in Canada against whom no evidence of disloyalty has been found, a chance to have his case considered by a properly constituted tribunal. To do less, in our view, would be to violate the United Nations Charter which expressly states its purpose as "The realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

If on reading the above you feel at all as we do, you can have a part in working for Christian justice in Canada, by sending a letter or telegram of protest to the Prime Minister either as an individual or as a member of your own church group or of any other group with which you have contacts. *Public opinion must be mobilized if a grave injustice is to be avoided.* Whatever is done should be done speedily before the Government policy hardens into action. Any communication should be addressed to The Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, Ottawa.

If more information is required, please do not hesitate to write. Our services are at your disposal.

Sincerely yours,

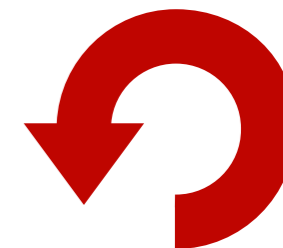
Rev. George Dorey, D.D., 299 Queen St., W.

Rev. E. H. Johnson, 100 Adelaide St., W.

Rev. W. W. Judd, D.D., 604 Jarvis St.

Rev. Fr. A. E. McQuillen, 200 Church St.

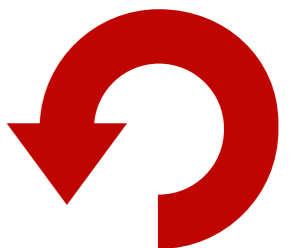
Rev. C. H. Schutt, D.D., 223 Church St.





- Photo of the signing of the Redress Agreement
- Signed by the President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians Art Miki and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
- Dated to September 22, 1988

4 years after WW2 had ended, the restrictions on Japanese Canadians were finally lifted, giving them the right to vote and freely move around. In the aftermath the Japanese Canadians formed organizations like the National Association of Japanese Canadians. It wasn't until 39 years later that these organizations settled agreements with Government of Canada for redress official apology. This photograph of the signing of the redress agreement implies many things. For one the signing as well as the \$300 million in compensation shows that the Canadian Federal Governments recognizes that its past actions were wrong. The War measures act being repealed for the Emergencies act also implies that the Government wants to prevent this type of racial discrimination in the future.





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The War Measures act gave the Canadian Government increased powers during times of conflict. This was used to freely create laws against Japanese Canadians during WW2

