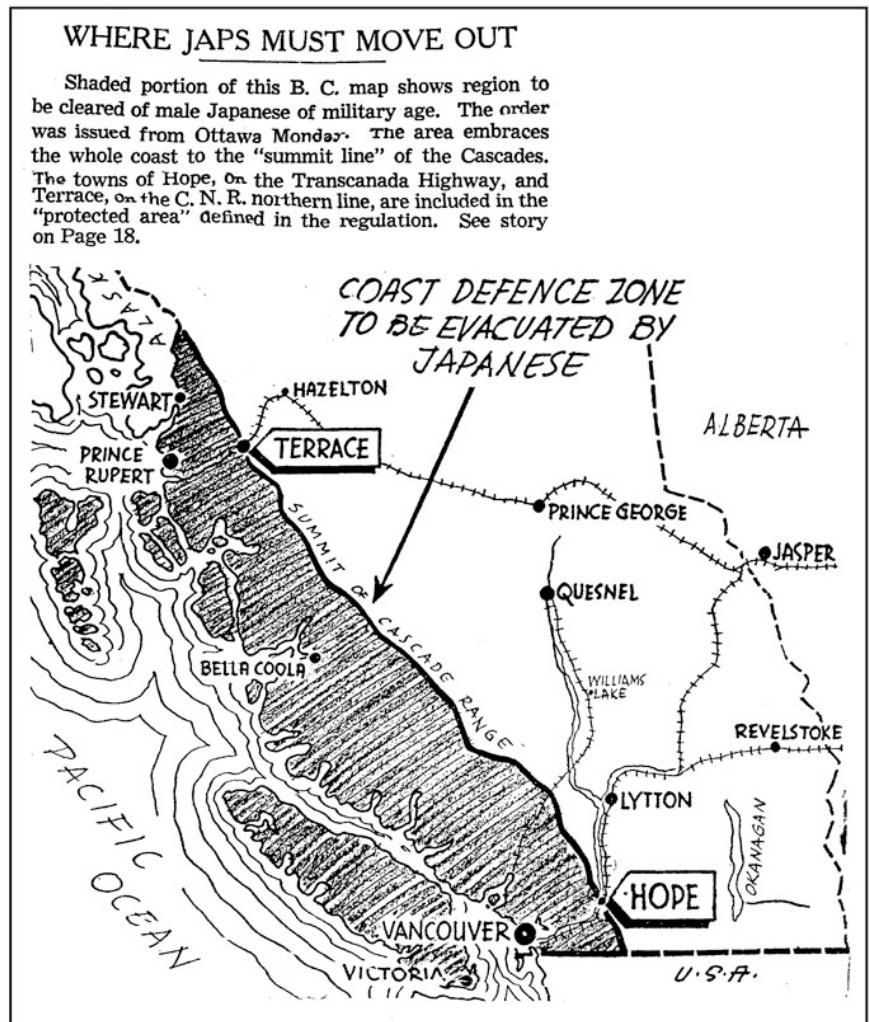


Glenbow Archives, M8699-153, 1942



The Vancouver Daily Province, 3 February 1942

WANT TO AVOID THIS?



SUBSCRIBE TO CANADA'S SECOND VICTORY LOAN!

Victoria Daily Times, 17 February 1942



They Menace *Canada* on Both Coasts

Canada is now menaced directly on both coasts.

The war has spread in a twinkling across two oceans. This is now a WORLD war — Canada stands squarely in the path of conflict. We who are fighting for freedom have great resources. But the enemy was ready years ahead of us.

Only work, sacrifice and grim determination to battle with all the weapons at our command will bring ultimate triumph. From those of us unable to bear arms, dollars are needed to forge new tools of victory. We must be prepared to do OUR part—to the utmost.

Come on Canada!

Get Ready
to Buy
the New

VICTORY BONDS

National War Finance Committee, Ottawa, Canada.

The Vancouver Daily Province, 9 February 1942

Contrast in Treatment



The Leader-Post, Regina March 1942

ALASKA

BERING SEA

Gulf of Alaska

CANADA

VICTORIA

SEATTLE

VANCOUVER

SAN FRANCISCO

UNITED STATES

IT Can happen

BUY

VICTORY BONDS

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaiian Is.

PACIFIC OCEAN

Famous 623 HASTINGS STREET.

The Vancouver Daily Province, 25 February 1942



Kitagawa, Muriel. Letter to the Custodian of Enemy Property, 1943

"You, who deal in lifeless figures, files, and statistics, could never measure the depth of hurt and outrage dealt out to those of us who love this land. It is because we are Canadians that we protest the violation of our birthright."

**CLOSING OUT
SALE**
**LAST TWO DAYS
FRIDAY - SATURDAY**
Take advantage of the tremendous savings offered by Yamato's final clearance.
Last minute reductions on Silks, Woollens, Lingerie, Gloves, etc.
YAMATO
460 GRANVILLE LIMITED
SILKS Rogers Building

FORCED TO CLOSE!
Prices Smashed
on **ENTIRE STOCK**
SILKS . . . WOOLLENS . . . ACCESSORIES
Must Be Sold
Many Lines 1/2 Price and Less
Hurry as this sale is to last only a few more days!
All Sales Final
No Exchanges
No Refunds
Silk and Woollen
REMNANTS
at Give Away Prices
"A Reliable Place to Shop"
YAMATO
460 Granville SILKS Rogers Building
LTD.

NOTICE TO ALL

MALES

OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

Every MALE Person, 18 years of age or over, of Japanese racial origin now in the district or vicinity of the cities of Vancouver, New Westminster, North Vancouver and the towns of West Vancouver and Steveston must report at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks at 33rd Avenue and Heather Street, Vancouver, B. C., between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12 noon as follows:

Japanese Nationals	March 27, 1942
Naturalized Canadians	March 30, 1942
Canadian Born	March 31, 1942

unless in possession of a permit to remain in the defense area issued by the British Columbia Security Commission.

Failure to comply with this order will entail a penalty of five hundred dollars fine (\$500) and one year imprisonment.

By Order:
 AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
 Chairman,
 B. C. Security Commission

The British Columbian, New Westminster, 27 March 1942

" . . . As A Purely Military Project"

WE now have on the record the final documentation of an act of profound significance as affecting North America and the joint war effort of the United States and Canada:

"Arrangements between Canada and the United States to facilitate speedy construction of the Alaska highway are outlined in detail in notes exchanged by the two nations and tabled in the Commons by Prime Minister King."

An Ottawa despatch fills in the details:

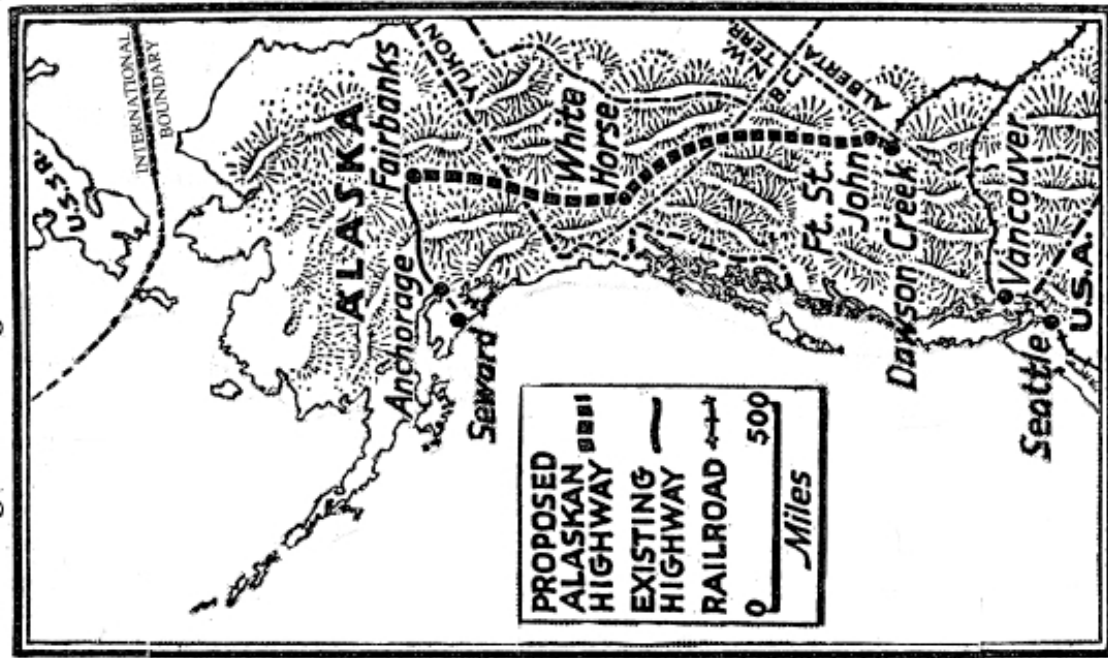
"Construction work will be undertaken by the United States as a purely military project. American army engineers now are at Dawson Creek, B.C., and survey parties are preparing to trace the route of the road through remote country from Fort St. John, B.C., to Alaska."

"It was understood the American engineers hope they will be able to construct the road almost directly along the route of the line of airports running from Fort St. John to Fort Nelson, Watson Lake and Whitehorse, Y.T., already being used."

"Canadian engineers familiar with the territory have expressed doubt, however, that this direct route can be used because of topographical difficulties. It would mean that difficult mountain and muskeg conditions would have to be dealt with."

Mark that phrase ". . . as a purely military project"—and think of the delay, long before this war came at all, while politicians and others argued about Canadian "sovereignty" and held up their hands in horror at the prospect that this highway might, at some time, be used as a military road!

Now, the United States and Canada are eager to have this highway completed — as a



military road—at the earliest possible date. We had in this country plenty of talk about our "sovereignty"

the "vision" of those who refused to see the day when the peoples of North America might have to stand together against a common foe. It is just another sample of the "militarism"—but so little and much declamation against "militarism"—but so little recognition of cold, grim realities!

Internment of Japanese Canadians

The forcible expulsion and confinement of ethnic Japanese during the Second World War represents one of the most tragic sets of events in Canada's history. Some 22,000 Canadian citizens and residents were taken from their homes on Canada's West Coast, without any charge or due process, and exiled to remote areas of eastern British Columbia and elsewhere. Ultimately, the Canadian government stripped the Japanese Canadians of their property and pressured them to accept mass deportation after the war ended. These events are popularly known as the Japanese Canadian internment. However, various scholars and activists have challenged this term on the grounds that under international law, internment refers to detention of enemy aliens, whereas most Japanese Canadians were Canadian citizens.

SERIAL No. 160

NAME TAKAHASHI, Hidekazu

ADDRESS Tashme, B.C.

16 HEIGHT 5' 5" WEIGHT 12

THUMB PRINT

MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION
Scar on right forearm.

OCCUPATION Apprentice to
Butcher.

Signature: *Hidekazu Takahashi*

The Bearer, whose photograph and specimen of signature appear hereon, has been duly registered in compliance with the provisions of Order-in-Council P. C. 117.

Vancouver (Date) January 24, 1945

CANADIAN BORN 117

PHOTO

Issuing Officer: *W. Dando*

D.M.C. 31/8/42.

Registered by Custodian SERIAL No. 00106

NAME SAITO KIMIKO

NASU (Kimiko) Mrs. Takashi

ADDRESS 397 Powell St., Vancouver, B.C.

19 HEIGHT 5' 1" WEIGHT 117 lbs

THUMB PRINT

MARKS OF IDENTIFICATION
Birth mark left cheek

OCCUPATION Dry Cleaner

Signature: *Kimiko Saito*

2011.10.5.1

The Bearer, whose photograph and specimen of signature appear hereon, has been duly registered in compliance with the provisions of Order-in-Council P. C. 117.

Vancouver (Date) 5th March, 1941.

CANADIAN BORN 117

PHOTO

Issuing Officer: *W. H. Schick*

INSPECTOR R.C.M.P.



Ils menacent le *Canada*

à l'est et à l'ouest

Le Canada est maintenant menacé de deux côtés à la fois.

La guerre s'est étendue aux deux océans, l'Atlantique et le Pacifique. Plus que jamais, c'est la

guerre mondiale et le Canada est en plein sur la ligne de feu.

Nous qui combattons pour la liberté, nous avons de vastes ressources, mais l'agresseur se présente depuis longtemps.

Le travail, les sacrifices, la farouche détermination de combattre avec les armes efficaces dont nous disposons, nous apporteront la Victoire finale.

Ceux qui ne peuvent prendre les armes voudront prêter leur argent pour fabriquer les instruments de la Victoire. Tout le monde doit faire sa part, dans toute la mesure de ses moyens.

L'ennemi est à nos portes

LE COMITÉ NATIONAL DE LA PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC, QUÉBEC, QUÉBEC

OBLIGATIONS de VICTOIRE

**PRÉPAREZ-VOUS
À ACHETER DES**

NOUVELLE ÉMISSION
VOS DOLLARS VOUS SAUVERONT • VOS DOLLARS VOUS REVIENDRONT

L'Echo du bas St-Laurent, 6 February 1942



NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 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)	SAPPERTON
SEA ISLAND	BURQUITLAM
EBURNE	PORT MOODY
MARPOLE	IOCO
DISTRICT OF QUEENSBOROUGH	PORT COQUITLAM
CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER	MAILLARDVILLE
	FRASER MILLS

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

Another Thing That 'Couldn't Happen'



WANT TO AVOID THIS?



SUBSCRIBE TO CANADA'S SECOND VICTORY LOAN!

April 17th, 1942

To Nisei:

The Security Commission still refuses to grant our request for Mass Evacuation in Family Groups.

But we are still demanding because we think beyond all doubt that our request is a most reasonable one in view of our enormous sacrifice for our country.

With this conviction we resorted to various methods to secure our last remaining freedom—freedom to live with our families by evacuating en masse in family groups.

We pleaded with Naturalized Canadians to demand it—they gave up without much effort. We persuaded J. C. C. Council to do their utmost—they also gave up too soon. They even refused to arrange a final Nisei mass meeting to discuss our common trouble. We talked with the Security Commission, we wrote to them (copy enclosed) and we sent our lawyer.

The answer is that we are by law Japanese Nationals and we have to do what we are told and go where we are sent. Some families are being sent to Alberta and Manitoba and while there is no promise that all families will be sent like this, the Commission hopes to settle more family groups as time goes on. And that is as much as we can get from them.

We however know that we are Canadians and that we are going to continue all efforts to get what we feel are our rights.

NISEI MASS EVACUATION GROUP

April 15th, 1942

The Chairman, B. C. Security Commission,
Marine Building, Vancouver, B. C.

Honorable Sir:

We Canadians have reached a point where we must stop and think deeply regarding our situation. For that purpose we have carefully reviewed the development of events which has brought us to this point where we are obliged to part with our families, perhaps never to meet them again for a long time to come. We enclose a summary of our above mentioned review.

As you clearly understand and as it is fully mentioned in our review, we have said "YES" to all your previous orders, however unreasonable they might have seemed. But we are firm in saying "NO" to your last order which calls for break-up of our families.

When we say "NO" at this point, we request you to remember that we are British subjects by birth, that we are no less loyal to Canada than any other Canadians, that we have done nothing to desert the break-up of our families, that we are law-abiding Canadian citizens, and that we are willing to accept supervision of our civil rights—rights to reside in our homes and businesses, banks, cars, radios and taxicabs. Incidentally, we are entitled, as native sons, to all civil rights of an ordinary Canadian within the limitations of Canada's laws. In spite of that we have given up everything. In view of this sacrifice we feel that our request for mass evacuation in family groups will not seem unreasonable to you.

Please also remember that we are not refusing to go. Indeed if it is for our country's sake, we shall evacuate as whenever other Canadians command. Yes, it was in that spirit that we obeyed all your previous orders.

Another point which we request you to remember is that separation of our families would not constitute anything towards Canada's war effort, whereas a soldier's separation from his family does result in a definite contribution.

Considering the above facts, we think it totally unnecessary that our last remaining freedom should be taken from us—the freedom to live with our families. We were taught in our Canadian schools that we should always stand for freedom, and we are almost for the first time in our lives being asked to give up our civil liberties. We are now being asked to give up our rights to live with our families, to live in our homes, to live in our communities, to live in our country. We are being asked to give up our rights to live with our families, to live in our homes, to live in our communities, to live in our country. We are being asked to give up our rights to live with our families, to live in our homes, to live in our communities, to live in our country.

We understand that it is the function of the B. C. Security Commission to avert all unnecessary hardship and all-feeding in dealing with this problem, and we should like to bring to your attention the fact that by allowing us to be evacuated in family groups you would do this, and further, you would give cooperation from us in carrying out your orders.

For these reasons we request your kindness in granting our humble request for the mass evacuation in family groups. We do so because we have confidence that such fair play and justice, even in war-time, will manifest itself and grant us our most human and reasonable request.

Respectfully yours,
NISEI MASS EVACUATION GROUP,
Representatives

The Survey of Developments of Events Re Evacuation of Canadians of Japanese Origin

1. On December 26, 1941, a most unfortunate international circumstance came as a fact which was born to affect all persons of Japanese origin in British Columbia.

2. The Government orders and public actions swiftly brought to make it increasingly difficult for all persons of Japanese origin to maintain normalcy of living: loss of business and jobs, confiscation of homes, cars, radios and taxicabs, and imposition of curfew laws. Ultimately, circumstances threatened the family unity itself.

3. The Government orders all made every idea of military age to evacuate from the home area by April 1st. On February 28th, the first group of Japanese nationals to evacuate to designated work camps, on pretext of sacrificing them for the future security of the Japanese race residing within the home area without consulting them.

4. The Government orders all alienated native of Japanese origin to evacuate to designated points and jobs.

5. At this point, the Nisei held a meeting of representatives from 12 overlapping organizations, electing an emergency Nisei Council which was generally to cope with circumstances arising out of total evacuation. The method of election was that the chairman selected a nominating committee of five, which, in turn, nominated 20 members; finally the chairman recommended and the representatives agreed to accept the 20 members together with the nominating committee, thus making a council of 25.

6. The J. C. C. Council tried to better the existing conditions of all orders of the Japanese origin and also to prevent the ultimate separation of families but failed that to be feasible. Therefore, the general policy of cooperation with the authorities was adopted. On March 25th, the first group of approximately 150, mostly young people boys, received orders classifying them as "Enemy Aliens" to evacuate to designated destinations. At this point not all nationals and no naturalized Canadians had as yet been evacuated. The Nisei refused to follow order under the classification of "Enemy Aliens" and instead as British subjects they considered the removal order as void. However, after detention and various methods of persuasion, the authorities were able to evacuate approximately 100 Nisei.

7. A group requested by the Nisei majority feeling that evacuation as such, in family groups, was the last human right left fully due to anyone, intervened. After deliberation, the J. C. C. Council accepted their demand to again meet with the Security Commission. The J. C. C. Council endorsed a concrete plan worked out by the Naturalized Canadians and submitted to the Security Commission for consideration. The basis of the plan was this: A plan of land outside of the home area, materials at the cost of \$1,000,000, later to be supplied by the evacuees.

8. The Security Commission refused to accept the plan on the grounds that there is no land available. The J. C. C. Council and the Naturalized Canadians accordingly accepted the Commission's reply as final.

9. The second plan of mass evacuation of women and children to be followed by men to other designated points was not found a consideration to the Commission by both groups. But the later condition of this plan was revised. The J. C. C. Council and the Naturalized Canadians accepted the revised plan. At the same meeting on April 26th the combined groups publicly informed the authorities that they would no longer cooperate in adherence with the orders of the Commission. The meeting was pre-empted by a feeling of the public refusal to comply with the revised plan. This attitude of the public climaxed in the detention of approximately 40 Canadians.

Japanese Canadian Centennial Project, 1978.

"Let us break this self-damaging silence and own our own history. If we do not, estrangement from our past will be absorbed and driven deeper, surfacing as a fragmentation in ourselves and coming generations."

Thomas Reid, Member of Parliament for New Westminster, January 15, 1942

"Take them back to Japan. They do not belong here, and here, and there is only one solution to the problem. They cannot be assimilated as Canadians for no matter how long the Japanese remain in Canada they will always be Japanese."

Kogawa, Joy. Naomi's Road, 1986

"Every morning I wake up in a narrow bunk bed by the stove. I wish and wish we could go home. I don't want to be in this house of the bears with newspaper walls. I want to be with Mommy and Daddy and my doll in our real house. I want to be in my own room where the picture bird sings above my head....But no matter how hard I wish, we don't go home."

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, House of Commons, 1944.

"The sound policy and the best policy for the Japanese Canadians themselves is to distribute widely as possible throughout the country where they will not create feelings of racial hostility."

Angus MacInnes, Member of Parliament from British Columbia, 1943.

"I see no reason why we should deal with the population of Japanese origin among us any differently from the way in which we deal with those of German and Italian extraction. If we deal with them differently – and we have done so – we do it on account of racial prejudice."

Roy Ito, *We Went to War. The Story of Japanese Canadians Who Served During the First and Second World Wars*. 1984.

"The deep rooted fear and hatred of the Japanese that went back for half a century had climaxed in a manner that was perhaps inevitable. The animosity had been nurtured by many men, twisting facts and playing upon racial prejudice until the people of British Columbia perceived the distortions as the truth."



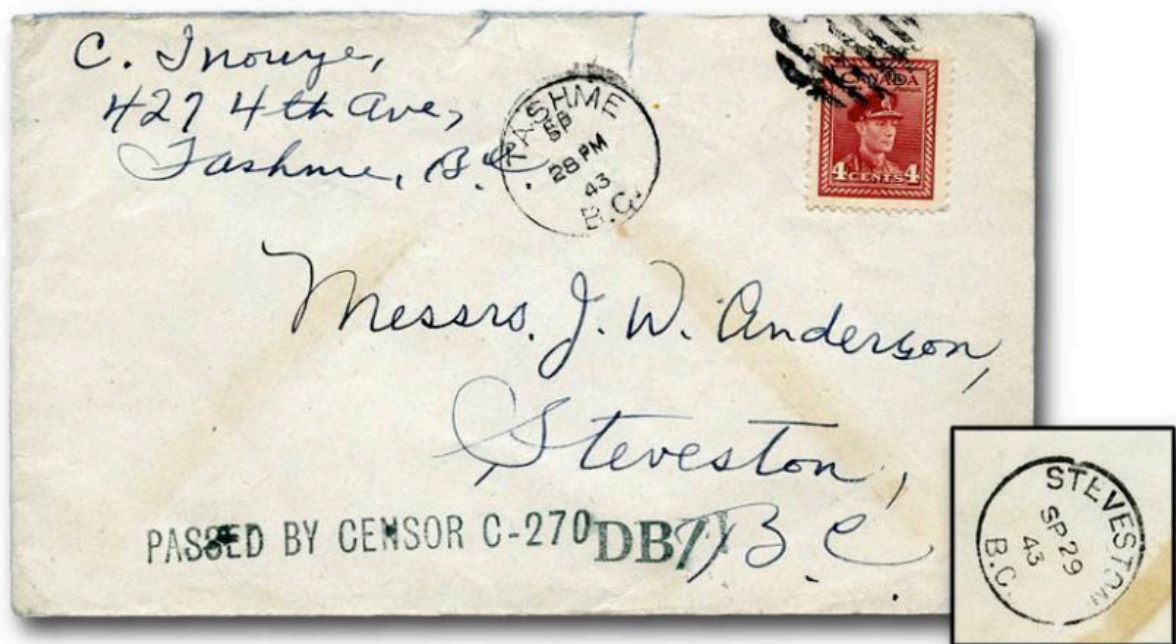
Above: "Japanese Canadians being processed in Slocan". Image and caption found [here](#).



Above: "Truck transporting Japanese Canadian men to Tashme camp". Image and caption found [here](#).



Above left: A street in Tashme during the Second World War; 2,400 Japanese internees lived there. Above right, a guard tower at Tashme. It's difficult when viewing such images not to make comparisons with the Holocaust. — *UBC Library Digital Collections*



A wartime cover posted from Tashme, BC to Steveston, BC by Japanese internee C. Inouye. Before the war, Steveston was an important fishing port used by Japanese fishermen.

On May 6, 1942, the *New Canadian*, an English-language newspaper that addressed the concerns of Canadian-born Japanese, reported the story about the Woodfibre “evacuation”:

Woodfibre Evacuated

Families Moving Steadily To Inland B. C. Towns

WOODFIBRE, B.C., MAY 6—The Howe Sound area including the pulp and paper town of Woodfibre and mining centre at Britannia, was cleared today of all persons of Japanese origin. The Union Steamship S.S. Lady Cynthia was due to arrive in Vancouver about 7 p.m. with 250 evacuees, completing the evacuation of the entire coast except for Vancouver and district and the Fraser Valley. Registration of families for various projects was carried out while the people were still in their homes.



A school photo, taken in Woodfibre in 1939 or 1940, includes both Japanese and white students.

THEY NEVER CAME BACK



City of Vancouver Archives/Jack Lindsay Ltd. Photographers Fonds

RELOCATION



City of Vancouver Archives/Pacific National Exhibition Fonds

THE 'SCHOOL YEARBOOK' OF MICHIKO AYUKAWA



Michiko Ayukawa/Canadian War Museum

WORK CAMPS



Ken Okura/Chris Hope

FIRST THE BOATS, THEN THE CARS



City of Vancouver Archives/Jack Lindsay Ltd. Photographers Fonds

**'I THOUGHT EVERYONE TOOK VACATIONS BY LEAVING HOME IN A
RAILROAD CAR'**



Courtesy of Michael Kluckner

TAKING AWAY THE FISHING BOATS



Library and Archives Canada



Japanese Canadians

September 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney signs the agreement to compensate the Japanese-Canadians for the expropriation of their property and their internment during World War II (photo by Mike Binder).



Japanese Settlement, East Lillooet, BC

View of a row of shacks in East Lillooet, British Columbia, c. 1943.

COURTESY NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM/2014.14.2.4.183

Roy Ito, *We Went to War. The Story of Japanese Canadians Who Served During the First and Second World Wars*. 1984.

"The deep rooted fear and hatred of the Japanese that went back for half a century had climaxed in a manner that was perhaps inevitable. The animosity had been nurtured by many men, twisting facts and playing upon racial prejudice until the people of British Columbia perceived the distortions as the truth."

"It is the government's plan to get these people out of B.C. as fast as possible. Every single man, woman and child will be removed from the defence area of the province and it is my personal intention, as long as I remain in public life, to see they never come back here."

Ian Mackenzie, Min. of National Defence, *The Province*, 4 April 1942



An internment camp for Japanese Canadians in British
Columbia, 1945.

Image: Jack Long / National Film Board of Canada/Library and
Archives Canada/PA-142853.

LAC



Lemon Creek Baseball Team

A team of Japanese Canadian baseball players interned in Lemon Creek, BC, 1943

COURTESY NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM, 1994.60.13





Japanese Canadian Internment Camp
Community kitchen at a Japanese Canadian internment camp in
Greenwood BC, 1943.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA / LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA / C-024452



Japanese Canadian Internment
Relocation of Japanese Canadians to internment camps in the interior
of British Columbia, 1942.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/C-047397



Japanese Canadians being relocated in British Columbia,
1942.

Image: Library and Archives Canada/C-057250.

LAC



Japanese Relocation

Even those Japanese who were Canadian citizens were relocated in
1942 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/C-46350).



Japanese Canadian men being relocated in British Columbia,
1942.

Image: Province Newspaper/Vancouver Public Library/1381.
VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY



Japanese Evacuation, 1942. Image: Erindale College Photo
Collection.

In 1942 the Canadian government moved to relocate all Japanese in British Columbia, seizing any property that the people could not carry (courtesy Erindale College Photo Collection).



Japanese Canadians Being Relocated in BC, 1942
A family of Japanese Canadians being relocated in British Columbia,
1942.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/C-046355



Fishermen having their boat confiscated
Japanese Canadian fishermen having their boat confiscated by a Royal
Canadian Navy Officer, 1941.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/PA-112539



Japanese intermit, photo Tak Toyota/LAC/C-046350

Takashima, Shizuye. A Child in a Prison Camp, 1971

"I have to pay taxes, but have never been allowed to vote. Even now, they took our land, our houses, our children, everything. We are their enemies."

Excerpt from the article on Canada and the Battle of Hong Kong from the Canadian Encyclopedia <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/battle-of-hong-kong/>

Of the 1,975 Canadians sent to Hong Kong, 290 were killed and 493 wounded during the battle and its immediate aftermath — proof, said veterans decades later, that they had resisted fiercely and courageously before surrendering to the enemy. Another 264 Canadians died as prisoners of war, while 1,418 survivors returned to Canada — many of them deeply bitter at the cruelty of their Japanese captors.



1942-45 David Suzuki and his two sisters in an internment camp. David Suzuki et ses deux soeurs dans un camp d'internement. LAC, 1976-087, PA-187835

5368
 RECEIVED
 OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN
 JAPANESE SECTION
 7 1942
 up to Chicago
 Shocan City, B.C.
 Nov. 5, 1942.
 Dept. of the Custodian
 506 Royal Bank Bldg.
 Hastings and Granville
 Vancouver, B.C.
 Dear Sirs:
 I received your letter several days
 ago asking us about the house at Crofton.
 We do want it left, boarded up.
 Thanking you, I remain,
 Yours truly,
 Mr. T. Takahara.
 Address.
 Mr. T. Takahara
 No. 08924
 Shocan, C.T.Y.
 B.C.
 (16)



Slocan City, B.C.
Oct. 12, 1948

Office of the Custodian
506 Royal Bank Bldg.
Hastings and Granville
Vancouver,
B.C.

EVACUATION SECTION	
Rec'd	OCT 15 1948
File No.	3368
Ans.	108924
Referred	BELL

Dear Mr. Bell:

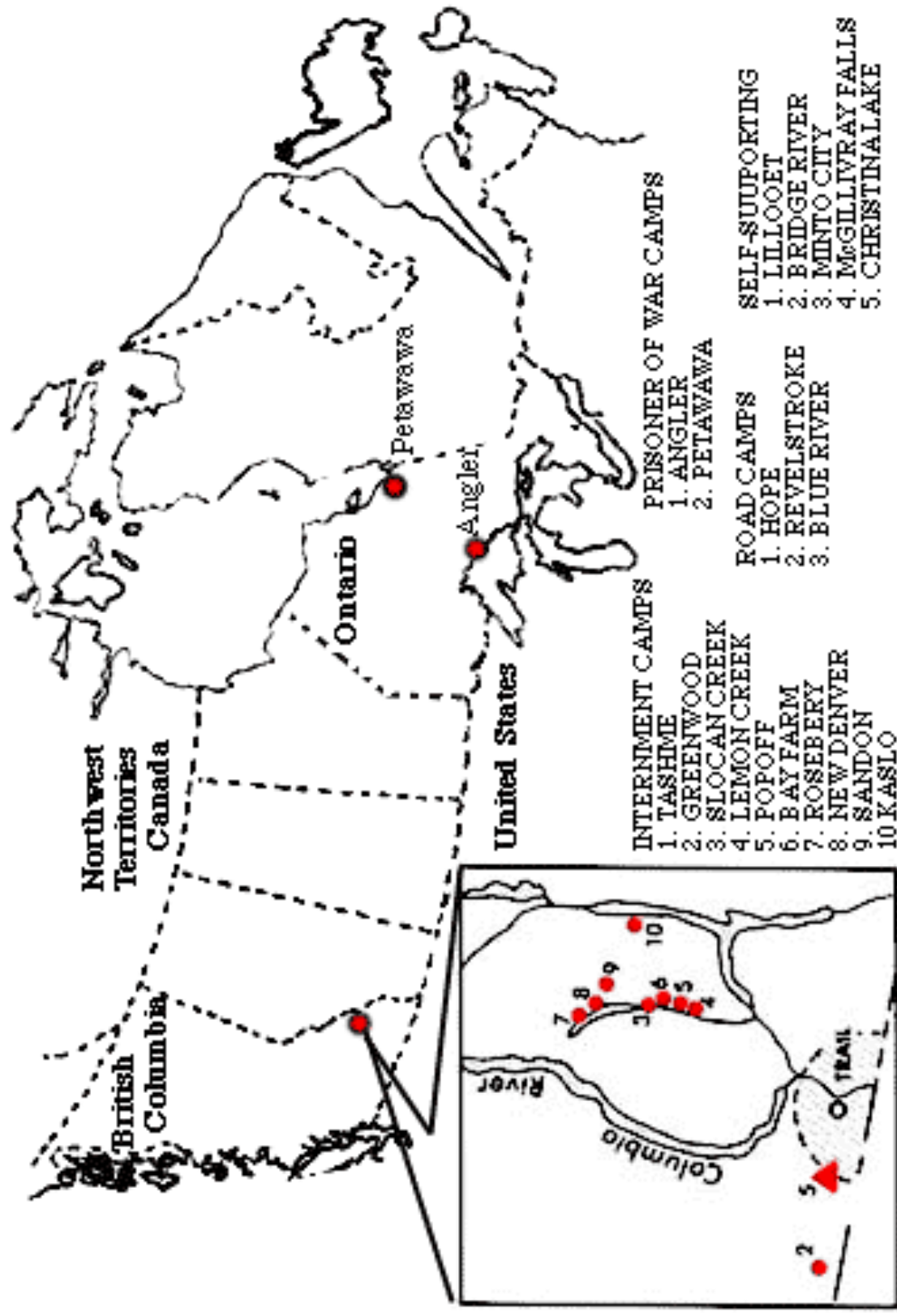
Answering your letter and cheque,
received on Oct. 11.

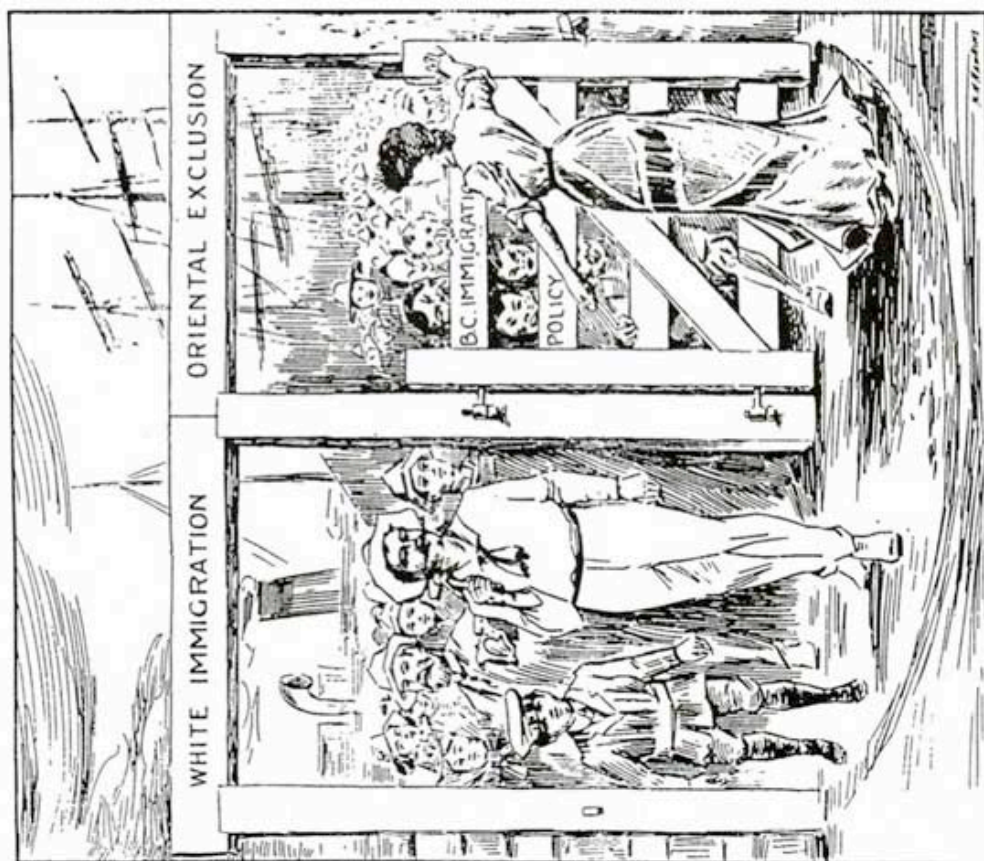
I understand that this cheque you have
sent me, is the cheque for the house and
properties of Crofton, that the Custodian
sold. I have written time and again that, I
didn't want my house and properties sold.
I wanted them to be taken care of. Therefore
I want them back, instead of this cheque.

If it is impossible to get my house and
properties back from the Custodian. I'll
have to write to the Government.

Therefore I am returning this cheque
and will not accept it at all.

Yours Truly,
I. Takarabe.





THE SAME ACT WHICH EXCLUDES ORIENTALS SHOULD OPEN WIDE THE PORTALS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO WHITE IMMIGRATION.

The internment of Japanese Canadians in British Columbia, Slocan City, 1946.
(Library and Archives Canada, C 47400)



ANTI-JAPANESE LEGISLATION

B.C. Elections Act.

1897 British Columbia denies the franchise to citizens of "Asiatic" origin. Hayashi-Lemieux "Gentleman's Agreement".

1908 Japan agrees to restrict the number of passports issued to male labourers and domestic servants to a maximum of 400 a year.

1923 The number of passports is restricted to Japanese male immigrants to 150 a year

1928 Wives and children are now included in the 150 a year quota.

Orders-in Council.

P.C 117: March 1941.

Required registration and fingerprinting of all Japanese Canadians over the age of 16.

P.C. 365: January 1941.

Required all male Japanese Canadian nationals between the ages of 18-45 to be removed from the protected land - 100 miles inland.

P.C. 1486: February 1941.

Required removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from protected area.

P.C. 469: January 1943.

Authorized the Custodian of Enemy Property to sell property of Japanese Canadians that was being held in trust.

P.C. 496: February 1943.

Required that Japanese Canadians had to apply for a license to purchase property.

P.C. 469: April 1943.

Ordered the deportation of Japanese Canadians to Japan or their removal to eastern Canada.

"No Chinaman, Japanese or Indian shall have his name placed on the Register of Voters for any Electoral District, or be entitled to vote at any election."

Provincial Elections Act of B.C., 1895.

In 1942, 23,000 Japanese Canadians lived on the West Coast of British Columbia. The majority of them were Canadians by birth or naturalized citizens. While they worked as fishermen and labourers and paid their taxes, they were denied the right to vote. Thirty-five years after the first person of Japanese origin settled in Canada (Manzo Nagano), Japanese Canadians continued to face persecution and racism.

At the turn of the century, anti-Asian sentiment was rampant. Successive waves of Asian immigration gave rise to a public anxiety over the "Yellow Peril". It reached a fevered pitch in 1907 when a crowd at an anti-Asian rally suddenly turned into a mob and marched through Vancouver's Chinatown and Japanese town breaking store windows. The riot was stirred by the consolidation of anti-Asian agitation by industrialist workers and exploitation of the public sentiment, by the media and politicians. The government reacted by restricting immigration of Japanese nationals to Canada from 400 in 1908 to 150 in 1923.

Despite the racism, the community continued to develop and prosper. During the years of limited immigration, women arrived and families began to grow. Japanese Canadians, still without the franchise, volunteered for service in WWI. By 1919, Japanese Canadians owned nearly half the fishing licenses in B.C., but by 1925, 1,000 fishing licenses were stripped from them. In 1941, Japanese Canadians were fingerprinted and photographed and were required to carry registration cards. War was imminent.

The Outbreak of War: Enemy Alien Legislation

"On December 7, 1941, an event took place that had nothing to do with me or my family and yet which had devastating consequences for all of us - Japan bombed Pearl Harbour in a surprise attack. With that event began one of the shoddiest chapters in the tortuous history of democracy in North America."

Dr. David Suzuki, *Metamorphosis: Stages in a Life*.

Immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, 1,800 Japanese Canadian fishing boats were seized and impounded. Japanese language newspapers were shut down. The government enacted the War Measures Act and vested power from the representative Parliament to the Prime Minister's Cabinet. Within three months, federal Cabinet Orders-in-Council forced the removal of Japanese Canadian male nationals to camps, and then authorized the removal of all persons of Japanese origin. The RCMP was given expanded powers to search without warrant, impose a curfew and confiscate property. A Custodian of Enemy Property was authorized to hold all land and property in trust.

During the "evacuation", many people were given only 24 hours notice to vacate their homes, before being sent to "clearing sites" where they were detained until internment camps were prepared. A civilian body, the B.C. Security Commission was in charge of the expulsion orders. By November 1942, after eight months of operation, the Commission managed to breakup and up-root families and sent nearly 22,000 individuals to road camps, internment camps and prisoner of war camps.

Stripped of their rights, categorized as "Enemy Aliens" and forcibly uprooted, Japanese Canadian internees faced further injustices. All of their property and belongings held by the Custodian of Enemy Property "in trust", were sold without owners' consent. Land, businesses, cars, houses, and personal effects were liquidated at a fraction of their value. The government justified this action. Proceeds from the sale of goods and property would be used to pay for the living expenses of the interned. Towards the end of the war, the Japanese were threatened with further expulsion. They were given the option for "dispersal" to places and towns east of the Rocky Mountains, or outright "repatriation" to Japan.

The End of War: Government Anti-Japanese Sentiments Persist

"Let our slogan be for British Columbia: 'No Japs from the Rockies to the seas'"

Ian Alistair Mackenzie, MP, from his nomination speech, September 1944.

The War ended in 1945 after the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrendered. While Japanese Americans pieced their lives together and returned to the coast, Japanese Canadians did not have this option. Their choice was to be exiled to Japan, a defeated country unknown to many Japanese Canadians, or to re-settle in foreign parts of Canada. Initially, 10,000 Japanese Canadians signed for repatriation. Many signed out of fear, or misguided loyalty to Canada.

Throughout the years Japanese Canadians fought for the franchise, protested against restricted immigration and opposed internment. As the war ceased, Japanese Canadians were no longer alone. Others joined the fight. The Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians, a federation of organizations including church groups, civil libertarians and journalists, brought the case against deportation to the Supreme Court of Canada. While the Supreme Court ruled in favour of deportation, Prime Minister King decided to yield to public opinion and end the program. By this time in 1947, 4,000 Japanese Canadians had left Canada; 2,000 were Canadian born, of whom one third were children under the age of sixteen.

On March 1949, four years after the war was over, the last of the wartime restrictions and the War Measures Act were lifted. Japanese Canadians were allowed to travel freely and return to the West Coast. Prior to this date, in 1948, Japanese Canadians received the right to vote. Public sentiment was beginning to lean in the community's favour. Japanese Canadians were gaining strength and resolve to mobilize politically.

Seeking Justice: The Movement for Redress and Compensation

"Born in Canada, brought up on big-band jazz, Fred Astaire and the novels of Rider Haggard, I had perceived myself to be as Canadian as the beaver. I hated rice. I had committed no crime. I was never charged, tried or convicted of anything. Yet I was fingerprinted and interned."

Ken Adachi, Toronto Star, Sept. 24, 1988.

One of the government's first overtures towards redress was to compensate the Japanese Canadians for their losses during the war. The Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy (JCCD), which later became the National Association of Japanese Canadians, objected to the terms of the Bird Commission. Compensation was limited to property losses only. This was too restrictive and did not deal with issues of civil rights, sale of property without consent, and damages incurred from loss earnings, disruption to education, and psychological trauma.

In 1950, the Justice Henry Bird recommended \$1.2 million compensation to individuals - from which their legal fees had to be deducted. This represented \$52 a person. Many felt compelled to accept the offer; others did not even file claims. The outcome of this commission quelled any further protest for the next 20 years.

In the 1970's the government allowed public access to government files. It became possible for the public to review the government's wartime actions. In her research "The Politics of Racism", historian Ann Sunahara revealed what many in the Japanese Canadian community had felt all along - the Japanese in Canada were never a threat to national security. This fact was confirmed by military and RCMP documents. Rather, the government's wartime actions were spurred on by the anti-Asian, and racist sentiments of the time. The war provided the government with the opportunity to use political means to respond to the "Japanese" problem. The wrongs of the past were being exposed. History was about to be re-written.

The Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement

"Canadians of every background are supporting the National Association of Japanese Canadians' demand for redress as a necessary journey into the interior of our national conscience. Acknowledgment of an imperfect past is a prerequisite for a future in which people live together in mutual respect, and self-righteous racism does not take us by surprise again."

Bruce McLeod, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada, 1988.

The 1980's marked a period of rejuvenation for the fight for redress. The Japanese Canadian community initiated a process that would see them deal with internal community struggles of leadership, the mobilization of the community around a compensation package, and getting the government to the table. Towards the end, they would gain the support of many Canadians from all walks of life, from across Canada.

The campaign for redress was bolstered by a number of events. In 1980, the US Congress conducted hearings into the internment of Japanese Americans. One year before the Canadian agreement, the U.S. offered an apology and individual compensation package to the internees. Both events drew media attention to the cause and highlighted the case for Japanese Canadians. The all-party Committee report *Equality Now!*, released in 1984, raised the public consciousness to the issue of redress. This initiated a government response. The NAJC spent countless hours negotiating with the government. The discussions spanned five years with two different government parties in power and five successive Ministers of State for Multiculturalism.

On September 22, 1988 The Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement was signed. In the House of Commons, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney acknowledged the government's wrongful actions; pledged to ensure that the events would never recur and recognized the loyalty of the Japanese Canadians to Canada. As a symbolic redress for those injustices the government offered individual and community compensation to the Japanese Canadians. To the Canadian people, and on behalf of Japanese Canadians, the government committed to create a national organization that would foster racial harmony and help to eliminate racism. The Canadian Race Relation Foundation opened its doors in 1997.

Lessons Learned from History: Can it Happen Again?

"History is repeating itself. Buck-teeth-grinning wartime posters have been dusted off, warning that the yellow menace is invading America and winning. Daily, the growing animosity to the land of the rising sun, and to me, fills me with fear and apprehension. I stand helpless as the continent's racism is being manipulated to explain unemployment, deficits, and increasing non-competitiveness. Scapegoat as enemy, my chest constricts again." Maryka Omatsu (Judge), *Bittersweet Passage*, 1992.

In 1942, the Canadian government enacted the War Measures Act. Orders in Council decreed by Cabinet gave sweeping powers to the RCMP and military to search, arrest and curfew. Civil Liberties were cast aside for national security. Japanese Canadians were registered and interned.

To prevent history from repeating itself, the NAJC lobbied for amendments to the War Measures Act and in 1987, the government replaced it with the Emergencies Act. The new Act outlined criteria for what is considered a national emergency; provided Parliamentary oversight of Cabinet Orders in Council; and prohibited the detention of individuals on the basis of race and other grounds, e.g. religion, etc. It attempted to balance the protection of civil liberties with the right to respond to emergencies.

But does it? Although the Emergencies Act contains provisions to apply the Charter of Rights and Freedoms during the exercise of emergency powers "in the same way as it does other government actions"; this alone is not an unequivocal guarantee of Charter rights. Critics' fear that in upholding the Emergencies Act the federal government can use certain provisions of the Constitution ("Peace, Order and Good Government") and the Charter (s.33) to override fundamental Charter Rights. The greatest fear lies in the fact that the Charter needs to be amended to ensure that human rights cannot be eroded, even in times of emergency.

It was racism and wartime hysteria, which allowed the government to intern Japanese Canadian citizens. The War Measures Act was simply the mechanism used to carry out the government's orders. Thus, the Emergency Act alone may not be enough to secure the rights of vulnerable groups.

FACTS & FIGURES :

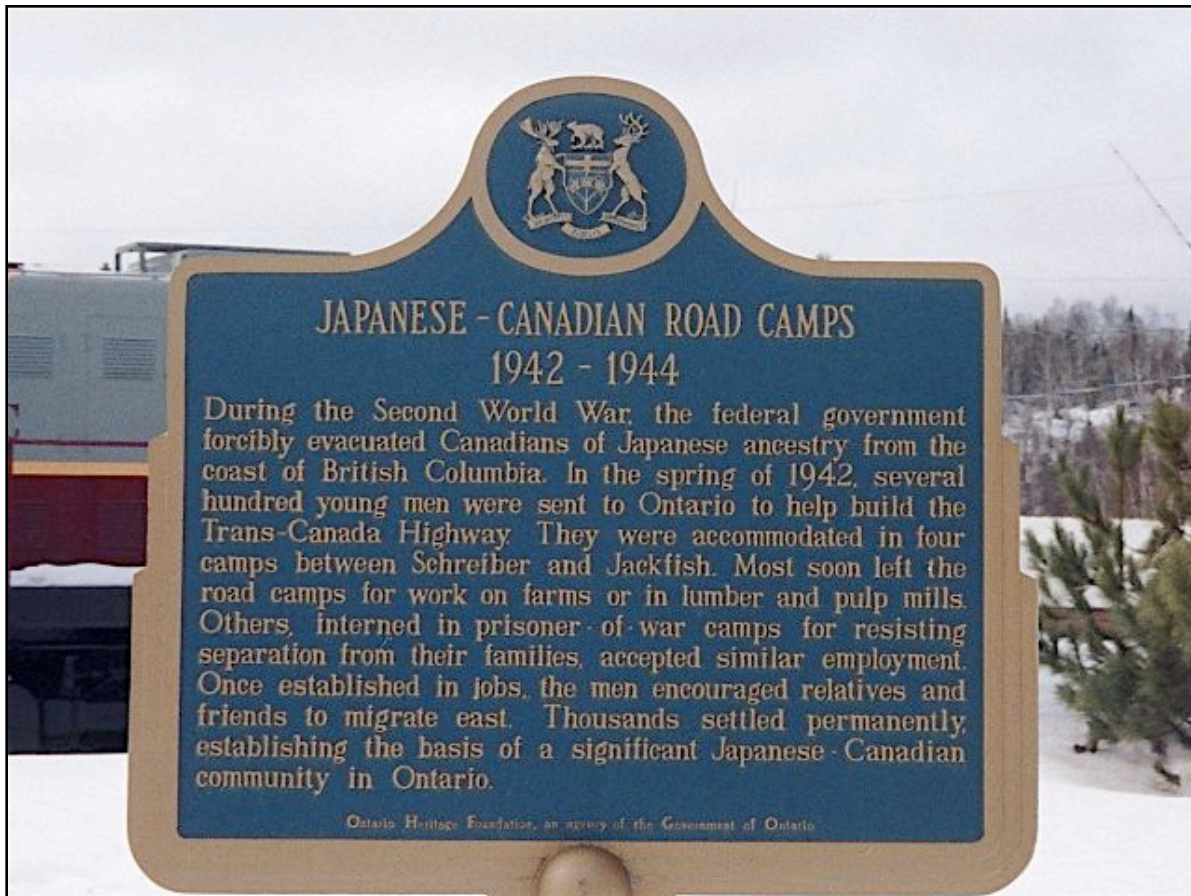
- ❖ Prior to World War II, 22,096 Japanese Canadians lived in British Columbia; three quarters of them were naturalized or native born Canadians. During the war, 21,460 were forcibly removed from their homes; families were broken up and sent to internment camps. After the war, 3,964 were deported to Japan; one third of them were Canadian citizens.
- ❖ In 1950, the Bird Commission's report resulted in an offer of \$ 1.2 million compensation to Japanese Canadians. A 1987 Price Waterhouse study estimated real property loss at \$ 50 million, total economic loss at \$ 443 million.
- ❖ The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian military advisers did not consider the Japanese Canadian community on the West Coast as a threat to domestic security.
- ❖ The Japanese in Canada were treated harsher than the Japanese in the United States.
- ❖ In the U.S., families were interned together. In Canada, initially, families were separated.
- ❖ In the U.S., constitutional protections forbade the sale of property. In Canada, the government seized and sold land and personal property. In the U.S., housing and food were provided. In Canada, internees paid for food, clothes and basic improvements in housing from savings and proceeds of property sales.
- ❖ In the U.S., the government moved quickly in 1944-45 to rescind exclusion orders and to allow the return of citizens to the West Coast. In Canada, Japanese Canadians were forced to decide on deportation to Japan or relocation to parts east of the Rockies.
- ❖ The 10 internment camps, 3 road camps, 2 prisoner of war camps, and 5 self-supporting camps were scattered throughout Canada. During the war years, Japanese Canadians were regarded as possible threats to Canada's domestic security. Their actions were monitored; their rights suspended. Yet no hearings or trials were ever held and no charges of treason were ever laid.



Photo: <http://www.yesnet.yk.ca>



Fishing boats are the first items to be seized from Japanese-Canadians after Pearl Harbor. Those that don't sink are sold to whites, often for a pittance.



This picture was an ad put out by the Japanese government during the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941 to try to convince Canadian soldiers to surrender.

source: "Volume II – World Warriors and Peacekeepers, 19210 – 2000"



JAPANESE INTERNMENT

Map showing US and Canadian detention centers



Nisei* resistance and discontent was also evident in the pages of the Nisei press. The Pacific Citizen observed wryly that, due to its past and present treatment of the Nikkei, "Beautiful San Francisco" had forfeited its right to become the home of the United Nations. During the UN conference meetings in that city, it reported, "Certain Californians took to burning down the homes of evacuees, to shooting into their homes, and some of these incidents took place but a few miles from the spot in which delegates from the entire world were planning a prejudice-free world." The Canadian Nisei Affairs borrowed from the Double-V campaign of the African American press. The paper remarked that because young Nisei were attempting to volunteer for the Canadian army, Canadians on the home front should begin to address racial prejudice.

*Nisei are the Canadian- and American-born descendants of immigrants from Japan

